

### SHORT TAKES

### **Budget Session** begins today

New Delhi: Budget Session of Parliament, the last of the present Lok Sabha, will begin Wednesday with an address by President Droupadi Murmu to a joint sitting, as the government sought cooperation of opposition parties to ensure the proceedings run smoothly.

### Two killed in fresh Manipur violence

Imphal: Two village volunteers were killed and two others injured after their camp was attacked in Manipur Tuesday, police said. The incident happened at the camp situated near Kadangband village in Lamshang area at the border of the Imphal West and Kangpokpi districts, they said. The deceased were identified as N Michael, 33, and M Khaba, 23, they added.

### Soren surfaces, chairs meeting

Ranchi: Ending suspense over his whereabouts and intense political drama, Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren Tuesday reached his official residence in Ranchi and chaired a meeting of his alliance MLAs, a day ahead of the ED is to question him in a money aundering case. The JMM leader came by road from Delhi, travelling more than 1,250 km.

### **IRREGULAR** by MANJUL



No, not a word against Nitish Kumar! For all you know, he might be back with us again tomorrow



12 PAGES | ₹5.00

### **Three CRPF personnel** killed in Naxal attack

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Raipur, Jan 30: At least three CRPF personnel, including two commandos of its elite jungle warfare unit CoBRA, were killed and 14 others injured in an encounter with Naxalites along the border of Sukma and Bijapur districts of Chhattisgarh Tuesday, police said.

Among the three slain personnel, two belonged to CoBRA's 201st battalion and one to the CRPF's 150th battalion, a senior police officer said.

The Commando Battalion for Resolute Action (CoBRA) is the elite jungle warfare unit of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF). The exchange of fire occurred near Tekalgudem village when a joint team of security personnel was out on a search operation, Inspector General of Police (Bastar Range) Sundarraj P said.

On Monday, a new camp of security personnel was set up in Tekalgudem, a Maoist stronghold along the inter-district border, around 450 km away from the capital Raipur, he said. The personnel of the STF, District Reserve Guard and CoBRA, were carrying out a search in nearby Jonaguda-Aliguda villages when Naxals opened fire, he said.

### DAREDEVILRY ON DISPLAY: Bombay Sappers personnel perform at an event commemorating 100 years of the Iconic War Memorial of the Bombay Sappers Group at Dighi hills in Pune, Tuesday PTI PHOTO

# **Corruption goes up**

South Asian neighbours Pakistan (133) and Sri Lanka (115) grapple with debt burdens and ensuing political instability

### AGENCIES

New Delhi, Jan 30: In what has come as a dampener to the much publicised success story or touted global clout of India. a freshly released report of a wellknown global anti-corruption watchdog has claimed that the



of the countries across Asia and the Pacific have a CPI score below the regional average score of 45 and the global average of 43 out of 100

### Driver saves 60 before stroke death

PNN & AGENCIES

Nilagiri, Jan 30: Braving a severe heart attack while at the wheels, a bus driver in Balasore district saved the lives of about 60 passengers before he died Tuesday, police said.

The incident took place at Patapur Chhak on Panchalingeswar Road under this block in Balasore district early in the morning. The deceased was identified as Mohammed Kaptan of Howrah area in neighbouring West



sciousness on the steering. Panicked passengers called the locals who rushed Kaptan in a 108-ambulance to the nearby Nilagiri sub-divisional hospital. However, he was declared dead by doctors on arrival, police said

Amit Das, one of the passengers, said, "The driver suddenly fell sick and halted the bus. As soon as the vehicle stopped on the side of the road, he fainted. He was rushed to the hospital by local people where doctors pronounced him dead

The passengers and local peo-

MARKET WATCH						
INDEX VARIATION						
IRSES	SENSEX	71139.906 🖊	801.67			
BOL	NIFTY	21522.10 🖊	215.50			
CURRENCY BOURSES	DOLLAR	83.11 📕	₹0.03			
CURR	EURO	90.16	₹0.09			
ION	GOLD	₹62,781 💧	₹595			
BULLION	SILVER	₹72,651 🕇	₹274			

### WEATHER

	BBSR	CTC
Max Temp	29.6°(	28.0°
Min Temp	15.0°⊂	14.5°
Humidity	64%	63
Rainfall	Nil	Nil
FORECAST		Me
FOG/MIST IN THE MORNING	Ż	
	4	Su

country has slipped both in terms of ranking and score among the perceived corrupt nations in the world. While Transparency International had placed India at 85th rank in the corruption list among 180 countries in 2022 with a score of 40, in 2023, the country finds itself at the 93rd slot. while losing one more point in

the scoring index, at 39. However, India's overall score remained largely unchanged, according to the report.

The index, which ranks the countries and territories by their perceived levels of public sector corruption according to experts and business people, uses a scale of 0 to 100, where 0 is highly corrupt and 100 is very clean.

'India (39) shows score fluctuations small enough that no firm conclusions can be drawn on any significant change. However ahead of the elections India sees further narrowing of civic space, including through the passage of a (telecommunication) bill that could be a 'grave threat' to fundamental rights," the report said.

In South Asia, both Pakistan (133) and Sri Lanka (115) grapple with their respective debt burdens and ensuing political instability, it said. "However, the two countries have strong judicial oversight, which is helping to keep the government in check. The Supreme Court of Pakistan strengthened citizens' right to information by ex-

panding this right under Article 19A of its Constitution to previously restricted institutions," it said. The report said as Bangladesh

(149) emerges from the least developed country (LDC) status, with economic growth supporting a continued reduction in poverty and improving living conditions, the flow of information on the public sector is hindered amidst an ongoing crackdown against the press.

The report said as the Asia Pacific region faces a big 2024 election year, with people coming out to vote in Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Pakistan, Solomon Islands, South Korea and Taiwan, the 2023 CPI reveals

another year of little to no meaningful progress towards curbing corruption. Seventy-one per cent of the countries across Asia and the Pacific have a CPI score below the regional average score of 45 and the global av-

erage of 43 out of 100, it added. For sixth year in a row, Denmark has topped the ranking, with a score of 90 while Finland and New Zealand follow closely with scores of 87 and 85, respectively.

Norway (84), Singapore (83), Sweden (82), Switzerland (82), the Netherlands (79), Germany (78) and Luxembourg (78) completed the top 10 this year.

Noting that China (76) has made headlines with its aggressive anti-corruption crackdown by punishing more than 3.7 million officials for corruption over the last decade, the report said a closer study of the cases with guilty verdicts found that public officials often use corruption as a way to drive up their income.

Bengal.

Quoting preliminary information, police said that the bus (WB-76A-6328), carrying tourists from West Bengal, was proceeding towards

Imran gets 10 yrs in jail

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Islamabad, Jan 30: In a major blow to his bid to return to power in the February 8 general elections, former Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan, who is already serving a three-year jail term after being convicted of corruption, was Tuesday sentenced to 10 years in prison by a special court for leaking State secrets in 2022.

The decision to sentence Khan and ex-foreign minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi was announced by special court Judge Abul Hasnat Zulqarnain during the hearing of the case held at the special court in Adiala Jail at Rawalpindi established

Panchalingeswar Temple in the district when the driver suffered a heart attack.

under the stringent Official

March 27, 2022, when Khan-less

than a month before his ouster

in April 2022 — while addressing

a public rally waved a letter be-

fore the crowd, claiming that it

was a cipher from a foreign na-

tion that had conspired with his

political rivals to have his gov-

ernment overthrown.

The controversy first emerged

Secrets Act

ple applauded the presence of mind and alertness of the driver. As soon as he felt pain, the Later, locals sent back the pasdriver stopped the bus on the sengers in the same bus to side of the road and lost con-Panchalingeswar shrine.

### **Blue Flag tag for** Sunapur beach

POST NEWS NETWORK

Berhampur, Jan 30: After Puri, Sunapur beach in Ganjam district has received the prestigious Blue Flag certification from Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE) in Denmark.

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik wrote on X, "Glad to share that #Sunapur Beach in #Ganjam, one of the picturesque beaches of #Odisha has received the prestigious #BlueFlag certification from @FEEInt. This ecolabel, by ensuring stringent environmental standards, cleanliness, and tourist-friendly amenities will further boost tourism. #OdishaLeads'

## Ayodhya's Korean connect through royal wedding

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ayodhya, Jan 30: A teenage princess from Ayodhya had crossed the ocean in a boat some 2,000 years ago, sailed 4,500 km to Korea and married King Kim Suro who founded the Gaya Kingdom in the north Asian country, according to a Korean legend. The princess, Suriratna, then became Queen Heo Hwang-ok.

The fable is hardly known in India, nor is the fact that some 60 lakh people in South Korea, who consider themselves descendants of Suriratna, consider Ayodhya as their maternal home. It was therefore natural that many of them eagerly watched the Ram



Queen Heo Memorial Park on the banks of Sarayu river in Ayodhya PTI PHOTO

Temple consecration online from their homes January 22.

And now they can't wait to visit Ayodhya to see the grand new Ram temple complex up close.

Many members of the Karak clan visit Ayodhya every year to pay tributes at the memorial of Queen Heo Hwang-ok at the Queen Heo Memorial Park, which was set up on the banks of Saravu river in Ayodhya in 2001 in a partnership between the Uttar Pradesh government and the Gimhae city in South Korea.

"Ayodhya is very special to us as we see it as our grandmother's home," said Kim Chil-su, the secretary general of the Central Karak Clan Society. He was among those who attended the January 22 'Pran Pratishtha' ceremony of the new idol of Ram Lalla at the temple, a few kilometres away from the Queen Heo Memorial Park.

Spread over a 2,000 sq m area, the park features a meditation hall, pavilions dedicated to the queen and king, pathways, a fountain, murals and audio video facilities. The pavilions are built in a typical Korean style with tiled sloping roof.

"We visit Ayodhya every year to pay tributes at the memorial and this time we plan to go to the new Ram temple too. We watched the ceremony online and what a feeling it was. I haven't been to the old makeshift shrine but have read about the dispute," Yu-Jin Lee, who plans to travel with 22 others to the city in February told PTI over phone from South Korea.

Queen Heo Hwang-ok is revered as the progenitor mother of the Gimhae Heo families, according to an ancient Korean history text, "Samguk Yusa". It states that the queen came to Korea in AD 48 from "Ayuta". She is still revered as the progenitor mother of the Gimhae Heo families of the Karak clan.

In a post on X, the South Korean embassy had also congratulated India for the consecration ceremony January 22. "The place holds a great symbolic importance for Korea-India relations based on the matrimonial link between Queen Sriratna (Heo Hwang-ok) from Ayodhya and King Kim Suro from Gaya (Korea) in 48 AD," it said.





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### **MARTIN SCORSESE SAYS HE'S TOO SHORT TO GO TO THEATRES**

Filmmaker Martin Scorsese is too short to go to the theatre because there is always someone taller blocking his view. "I don't attend public screenings. People talk and move around a lot. I'm short and there's always a big person in front of me," says Scorsese.

### **SPEARS APOLOGISES TO TIMBERLAKE**

Pop icon Britney Spears has apologised to Justin Timberlake for the claims she made in her book. She took to Instagram to say she is 'deeply sorry' if she offended any of the people she cares about including her ex-boyfriend.





### ARIES

Without apparent reason you may go into your shell today. No doubt you will acknowledge the contribution of others, but Ganesha says you have to do more than that; you will have to share your knowledge with your peers. Besides this, Ganesha says you need to cut down on your spending

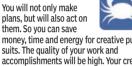
### TAURUS

Ganesha sees you being very planned and focuses, poised and practical in handling your affairs today. You'll be able to take identify the best strategy, course of action that the situations demand. This day you would be performing like a specialist, a real expert and will not fail to accomplish whatever you have set out to do

### GEMINI

You are on your way to falling in love. Your parents or children are likely to fetch you substantial gains, financially or otherwise. You may want to make a few changes at work, probably a new business strategy

### CANCER



money, time and energy for creative pur suits. The quality of your work and accomplishments will be high. Your creativity plays a key role in your accom plishments in career or business

### **LEO**

You will need to work hard to achieve your goals today. Those who are serious about their work will be easily able to tide over the day. You need to be cautious today. Not only at work, but even in personal relationships, you need to be or quard

### 

Issues regarding religious beliefs and spirituality will surface today. Pursue your goals single-mindedly to attain success in the field of your choice, and exploit your abilities and talents to the hilt, advises Ganesha. You will be more logical and cal culative, rather than emotional, in matters of your relationships.

### LIBRA Ganesha says that today in

your office you should be verv careful in your work. It is likely that your superiors will not be happy about your work or your



Mumbai: Triptii Dimri shot to instant fame after her appearance in Sandeep body is busy with work on OTT or Reddy Vanga's Animal. Prior to that, something else. Triptii had headlined several acclaimed movies. In a recent interview, the actress reflected on her journey before landing a role in

Animal The Qala actress said

got all the

love and

recognition

from the

streaming

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forms

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added

Trupti.

The ac-

ther recalled

the initial days

of her career

when people

would tell

her that

there was

not enough

However,

work

the

tress fur-

Animal.

OTT has contributed a lot to her career. She

"When I started off as an actor, very few projects would be happening. I would meet people, and they would say 'kaam hi nahi hai yaar (There is no work)' People would

wait for even six months to get acting jobs. Today however, there are so many opportunities to do work," she was quoted

as saying. In addition to this, the actress went on to affirm that she would just want to work which is 'challenging' without thinking if it would be released on an OTT platform.

The actress will be next seen in Dharma Productions' Mere Mehboob Mere Sanam which will also star Vicky Kaushal and

Ammy Virk in the lead

AGENCIES

roles.



**Mumbai:** Actress Mrunal Thakur shared a indescribable in words or emotions that personal experience while filming Hi Nanna and revealed a poignant breakdown that added emotional depth to the film.

"While filming the hospital scene in *Hi* Nanna where I discovered that the child is born with health conditions was an emotionally charged experience for me especially when I am not a mother to express that pain. I prayed thinking no mother in the world has to go through this kind of pain," Mrunal said.

She added: "Witnessing a heartbreaking YouTube video of a mother losing her child to an earthquake shortly before filming intensified my emotions. The profound pain is

## NSD's int'l theatre fest Indira Viswanathan in City from February 8

'Taj Mahal Ka Tender,' the first play of Bharat Rang Mahotsav, will be performed under the direction of Odisha-born Chittaranjan Tripathy, the director of National School of Drama, New Delhi

BHUBANESWAR: The National School of Drama (NSD)- New Delhi every year organises the International Theatre Festival of India, also known as Bharat Rang Mahotsav (BRM) or Bharangam, offering theatregoers and cultural enthusiasts a rich tapestry of Indian and global theatre traditions.

BRM's 25th edition will begin February 1 in Mumbai and witness over 150 performances, along with workshops, discussions, and master classes across 15 Indian cities, including Bhubaneswar.

The festival in the City will commence in the City from February 8 with the Hindi play Taj Mahal Ka Tender. Written by Ajay Shukla and to be performed by Repertory Company (New Delhi), the drama is directed by Odisha-born Chittaranjan Tripathy, the present director of National School of Drama, New Delhi.

The other plays to be over the next five days are: Agni

Aur Barkha (Language - Hindi;

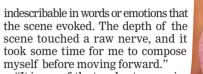
Playwright – Girish Karnad;



Direction-KS Rajendran; Group-Sri Ram Centre, New Delhi), Chitraganda (Language-Bengali; Playwright – Rabindra Nath Tagore; Direction – Zahid Repon; Group- Swapnadal, Dhaka), Tadanta (Language – Assamese; Playwright - GB Priestley; Direction - Dakhina Sharma; Group- Silpa Kanon, Nagaon, Assam), Naagmandal (Language - Hindi; Playwright – Girish Karnad; Direction - Satyabrat Rout; Group- Black Pearl Arts, New Delhi) Asharasya Prothom Diboshe (Language - Bengali; Playwright – Mohan Rakesh; Translation- Anshuman Bhowmik; Direction - Alok Basu;

Group-Theatre Factory, Dhaka),

according to an NSD release.



"It is one of the toughest scenes in my entire career. As an actor, such moments are both challenging and cathartic," shared Mrunal Thakur. Hi Nanna is now available in Hindi

on Netflix as Hi Papa. She starred opposite Nani. The film is directed by Shourvuy.

The movie explores a compelling narrative that resonates with viewers. AGENCIES

# joins Thunderbolts

Los Angeles: Half Indian-half Swiss actress Geraldine Indira Viswanathan has joined the cast of Thunderbolts, replacing Ayo Edebiri in an undisclosed role after the Emmy-winning The Bear star dropped out of the project due to scheduling.

Viswanathan joins a massive ensemble cast of actors playing some of the Marvel Cinematic Universe's best known anti-heroes, including Sebastian Stan as Bucky Barnes, Florence Pugh, David Harbour, Wyatt Russell, Hannah John-Kamen, Olga Kurylenko and Julia Louis-Drevfus, reports Variety.

Although specific plot details remain top secret, the movie will effectively serve as Marvel's version of the DC's anti-hero team the 'Suicide Squad', with the characters brought together to do the dirty jobs the Avengers can't do.

Since Viswanathan's career launched in the 2018 teen-comedy *Blockers*, she's appeared opposite Hugh

Jackman and Allison Janney in Bad Education, opposite Dacre Montgomery in the 2020 romcom The Broken Hearts Gallery and opposite Zach Galifianakis, Elizabeth Banks and Sarah Snook in The Beanie Bubble.

Talking about her Indian connection, Viswanathan's father, Suresh

Viswanathan, is a doctor who works in nuclear medicine and is of Indian descent while her mother, Anja



today. Those of you who are businessmen should try and delay sending off tenders today. Those who have given their job interviews may not get a favorable response to it.

### **SCORPIO**

At work, you would want to change the perspective with which people see you. Your colleagues recognise you as the emerging alpha-lion. Ideas and opinions will impress your bosses. But keep a level head and learn where to stop, even when winning, counsels Ganesha.

### 

Lengthy business meetings keep you occupied almost throughout the day. You may also do some value addition to your work by taking co-workers' suggestions and inputs, says Ganesha. Implementation of these inputs will prove highly beneficial in the long run.

### CAPRICORN

The day will be of paramount significance as you are likely to meet someone who will be associated with you for life, says Ganesha, Also, relationships and relatives will keep you busy for major part of the day. You may not find it interesting, but you will not have any options either.

### 

The day begins on high note. You work hard, put your best foot forward and at the end get the final output as per your requirements. Romantic and beautiful, the setting Sun will bring the softer side of your personality to the fore as you will spend the evening with your sweetheart, predicts Ganesha

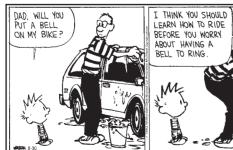
### **PISCES**

For you, today may all be work and no play, says Ganesha. This, however, will not stop you from putting in extra efforts to finish your pending projects and to meet your deadlines. But then who else but a Pisces is known to handle the pain nonchalantly without bemoaning the lack of pleasure?





### **CALVIN AND HOBBES**

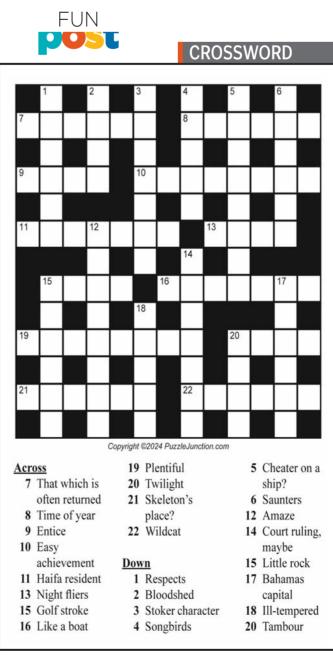




COULD YOU TELL ME THE NAME OF THE SMASHING PUMPKINS HIT IN WHOSE VIDEO FRONTMAN BILLY CORGAN DRESSED AS AN ICE-CREAM TRUCK DRIVER?







CHECK FOR SOLUTIONS OF THE PUZZLES TOMORROW

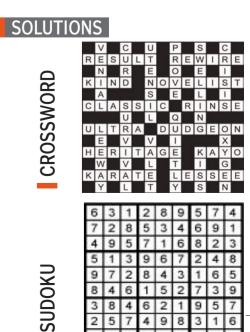
Raith, is from

IANS

### SUDOKU

To solve the Sudoku puzzle, fill in the boxes in such a manner that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.

	3				2		
7	9		2	6			
8	6		7				
			3		Ĩ	1	
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	8	Т			9	3	
5	2			4	7		
				8			4



9 3 7 5

6

2

4 8

Switzerland.



# downtown

### **TRIBUTES TO THE MAHATMA**

**Cuttack Collector Vineet** Bhardwaj pays floral tribute to Mahatma Gandhi on his death anniversary in Cuttack, Tuesday



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# **BARAMUNDA ISBT TO BE INAUGURATED IN MID-FEB**

5T Chairman Kartik Pandian directs officials to expedite work at the mega world-class facility



### POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 30: 5T and Nabin Odisha Chairman Kartik Pandian Tuesday reviewed the progress of the work for the much-awaited inter-state bus terminal (ISBT) at Baramunda and asked the Bhubaneswar Development Authority (BDA) to ensure the project's completion ahead of its inauguration in mid-February.

The ISBT is poised to become a crucial transit hub not only for the residents of Odisha but also for those from the neighbouring states.

On the instruction of Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, Pandian took stock of the upcoming facilities for commuters like waiting areas, bus bays, upcoming F&B outlets, lighting installations, and restrooms, during his early morning visit.

He appreciated the Operation Control Centre (OCC) while ad vising officials to engage highly

tech savvy personnel to man the facility.

Pandian directed officials to make provision of proper Odia signages and map facility to guide the commuters. He asked BDA team to expedite the remaining work and get the ISBT ready for dedication to people

of Odisha by mid February. Spanning over 15.5 acres of land, the ISBT, spearheaded by the BDA, aims at offering a wide range of passenger amenities, office space, parking facilities, food courts, restaurants, and

The feel and experience will

be that of an airport. The ISBT

is a significant project that will benefit the people of Odisha by

providing a modern and effi-

The terminal is designed to

cater to the needs of passengers

and provide them with a range

of comfortable and convenient

The terminal will provide

world-class travel experience to

**POLITICKLE** by MANJUL

cient transportation hub.

commercial space.

experience.

modern amenities such as stateof-the-art Aahaar centre, restaurants, multi-storey car parking, pick-up/drop-off facility, solar panel system, and sewage treatment plant. It also has provisions for police facilitation centre to ensure

the safety of passengers, administrative building for managing the terminal operations, toilet facilities for passengers, ramp facilities for the convenience of differently-abled passengers, and baby feeding rooms for women travelling with

passengers and is equipped with

infants. Besides, there will also be children's play area, a primary health clinic, and additional parking for seasonal buses. The ISBT will also have pre

paid auto and taxi facilities. Senior officials of BDA

Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation and City DCP Prateek Singh were present during the 5T Chairman's ground review.

### Odisha BJP 'Gaon Chalo' campaign from Feb 9

### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Jan 30: The Odisha BJP unit will undertake a three-day 'Gaon Chalo' (go to village) campaign from February 9 to tell the people about different schemes launched by the Central government in the last 10 years, a party leader said.

BJP state vice-president Golap Mohapatra Monday said that the campaign aims to increase the saffron party's vote share to more than 50 per cent in Odisha. He said the B.IP leaders will in-

teract with about one crore people during the campaign.

During the campaign, elected MLAs, MPs, panchayat and urban bodies functionaries of BJP will spend at least a day in the villages assigned to them and make people aware of different Central government schemes launched during the last 10 years





will also verify whether the assistance and benefits provided by the Narendra Modi government at the Centre are reaching the beneficiaries. The people will be sensitized about the implementation of the welfare schemes of the Centre.

Mohapatra alleged that BJD leaders were 'misappropriating' the Central assistance.

## Madame Tussauds NY unveils yoga guru Ramdev's wax statue

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#### AGENCIES

New Delhi, Jan 30: A life-size wax figure of yoga guru Ramdev was unveiled in Delhi Tuesday by Madame Tussauds New York (NY).

The event took place in the presence of the yoga guru, who also performed some 'asanas' on the occasion.

The wax sculpture will be 'available for fans to meet and interact with, at Madame Tussauds New York', Merlin Entertainments said in a statement.

"The unveiling of his wax figure serves as both a gift to his audience and a tribute to the yogi who continues to inspire millions, reflecting the unwavering faith of his followers in the present and projecting into the future," it said.

Madame Tussauds New York spokesperson Tiago Mogodouro said Ramdev's figure represents a harmonious blend of spiritual wisdom and health, mirroring the admiration and respect he commands worldwide.

"We take immense pride in honouring his contribution to yoga and wellness, anticipating that his presence will inspire our visitors to embrace the journey of self-improvement and holistic wellbeing," he was quoted as saying in the statement.

According to the yoga guru, the honor given to him is not the pride of a single 'sanyasi' but of the entire country. "Today, the eyes of the whole world are on India's yoga and Ayurveda. The wave of yoga, Ayurveda and Swadeshi which was started by

Madame adame issauds lussauds uids us YEN

Patanjali is now spreading all over the world," he said.

He said it took the efforts of about 200 artists and about ₹2 crore to make the wax figure. "Whoever is born in the soil of India is a Bharat Ratna. He should try to see what contribution he can make to establish the glory of Mother India in the world," he said.

On the occasion, a documentary film based on the life of the voga guru was also screened.

## Water is priceless, use it wisely: C

AGENCIES

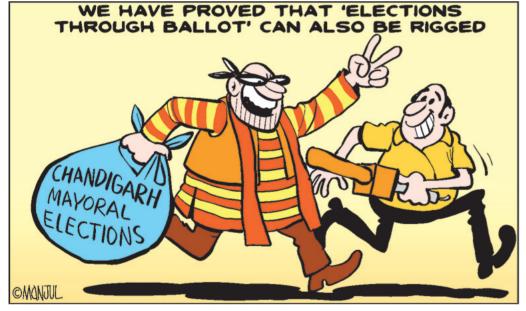
Bhubaneswar, Jan 30: Terming water as priceless. Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Tuesday advised farmers in the state to use the natural resource wisely.

Speaking at the closing ceremony of the state-level 'Pani Panchayat Pakshya 2024' at the Lok Seva Bhawan here, Patnaik urged farmers to conserve and reuse water while opting for crop diversification



is being completed on time. Participating in the program. Water Resources Minister Tukuni Sahu said that due to the vision and sincerity of the chief minister, there has been a transformation in all areas. There has been vast improvement in the fields of agriculture and irrigation. She said that through 'Pani Panchayats', farmers can make proper use of water and produce good crops.

Narrating their experiences.



"Âdopt technology for farming. This will increase yield and you will achieve success in the field of agriculture in addition to making the state a leader in this field," the CM said.

He said that 'Pani Panchayat' has given farmers the right over water and at the same time also vested the responsibility of its wise use upon them.

Through 'Pani Panchayat', in addition to using water efficiently, their willpower and ability to work together has increased, he added.

He said that the farmers of the state can grow good crops these days due to the proper and efficient use of 'Pani Panchayat'. Throwing light on this pro-

gramme meant for farmers, the



chief minister said that to date. about 40,000 'Pani Panchayats' have been formed in the state.

"Now this is no longer a program, it has become a movement," the chief minister said, adding that Mega Lift has been included in it, and arrangements have also been made so that women can participate in the program in large numbers. He praised that women are doing very well in 'Pani Panchavat'

The chief minister said, "Our

farmers are our strength. If they are strengthened, Odisha will be strengthened.'

Patnaik said that the development of farmers is most important for him and the efforts of the state government are underway to provide sufficient water to the farmland.

Highlighting the steps taken in the field of water resources, the chief minister further said that under the 5T initiative, technology is being used in irrigation projects in the state and the work

Mamata Das, president of Jagatsinghpur Maa Batmangala Pani Panchayat, and Madan Mohan Biswal, secretary of Ganjam Kabi Samrat Upendra Bhanja Pani Panchayat, said that because of 'Pani Panchayat', they could make proper use of water. "Even in low rainfall, we are getting good crops," they added.

During the event, the chief minister launched a prototype of 'Pani Panchayat' and unveiled a coffee table book titled 'Secha Sahabhagita 2.0'. The chief minister gave away awards and felicitated the best farmers, best 'Pani Panchayats', students who achieved success in various competitions, best projects and best administrators.

**Bank manager gets** 

4-yr RI in graft case

AGENCIES

Bank.

## CRPF jawan's body found in City hotel

#### POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 30: Employees at a private hotel here, under the Capital Police Station limits, found the lifeless body of a jawan with the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) hanging from the ceiling fan in a room, Tuesday morning.

The deceased, identified as Mir Singh (42) from Rajasthan, was stationed at the CRPF 214 Battalion in Chhattisgarh, police said. Reportedly, Mir arrived in Bhubaneswar January 26 and checked into the hotel at around 4:30 pm. However, the reason behind the suspected suicide has not been established yet.

Capital Police station IIC Padmanav Pradhan said the police are planning to record the statement of the deceased's family members who are likely to arrive in the evening. He said Mir had visited the City several times in the past and would stay in the same hotel.

The police are questioning the staffers of the hotel to rule out any foul play in the death of the uniformed personnel who is presumed to have died by suicide. Forensic experts collected samples from the room for lab examination.

Meanwhile, sources in the police said that Mir had taken leave since January 20 and his family members were aware of it. During initial questioning, some hotel employees told the police that they had heard Mir speaking loudly with someone over

phone Monday night. Police are also examining the Call Data Records (CDR) and chat details on Mir's phone to ascertain who he last spoke to, or exchanged message with, in order to obtain clues about the death.

### FIRS AGAINST POLITICAL COMMENTATOR Politicians should be thick-skinned: SC

AGENCIES

New Delhi, Jan 30: "Politicians should be thick-skinned," a Supreme Court bench said Tuesday while hearing a plea of a West Bengal-based political commentator seeking protection from arrest in multiple FIRs lodged against him for his alleged objectionable remarks against the Assamese people. The bench comprising Justices

B R Gavai and Sanjay Karol observed that even judges need to let go of the comments made against them in letters and interviews these days

"Politicians should be thickskinned. We judges also need to be cautious in view of letters and interviews happening these days. If we start listening to them, we will not be able to

work," Justice Gavai said. The bench was told by senior advocate Siddharth Agarwal



stening to them, we will not be able to work JUSTICE BR GAVA

and advocate Ashutosh Dubey, appearing for political commentator Garga Chatterjee, that he had made certain comments on

Twitter (now X) in 2020. Agarwal said a number of FIRs were registered against him in Assam and West Bengal

which needed to be clubbed and transferred to a neutral state for further investigation.

Referring to the comments of then Assam chief minister Sarbananda Sonowal, Agarwal said he had ordered Chatteriee's arrest according to the official statement, after which he was arrested.

"On August 19, 2020, the petitioner tendered a public apology for his remarks hurting the sentiments of the people of Assam," he said.

The bench asked him whether he was granted bail or not.

Agarwal said that bail was given and he was granted protection from arrest in FIRs lodged in West Bengal and Assam by this court September 9.2022

The bench then posted the matter for a final hearing on a non-miscellaneous day and asked the pleadings to be completed.

Bhubaneswar, Jan 30: Special Judge, CBI Cases, Bhubaneswar sentenced manager of Odisha Gramya Bank, Dadaraghati Branch, Dhenkanal to four years rigorous imprisonment in a briberv case here Tuesday.

CBI had registered a case August 8, 2016 against Duryodhan Sethy, then branch manager at

Odisha Gramya Dadaraghati Branch,

manding bribe from the com-

plainant for processing a poul-

favour of his wife.

guilty after trial.

try loan proposal of ₹4.25 lakh in →

A trap was laid and CBI caught

the accused while accepting

₹5,000 as bribe money August 9,

2016. After investigation, a

chargesheet was filed October 27.

2016. The Court held the accused

Dhenkanal on allegations of de-

## downtown

# It's a matter of pride, says CM

nine from central ministries and

departments had rolled down

the Kartavya Path during the

grand celebrations which was

graced by French President

ries that presented their tableaux

included Arunachal Pradesh,

Haryana, Manipur, Madhya

Pradesh, Odisha, Chhattisgarh,

Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Andhra

Pradesh, Ladakh, Tamil Nadu,

Gujarat, Meghalaya, Jharkhand,

Uttar Pradesh and Telangana.

Odisha has finished first in the

judge's choice category while

Gujarat's tableau has won the top

In the judge's category, Gujarat

finished second while Tamil

Nadu was ranked third, he said.

Officer Harprasad Mahapatra

Odisha's Assistant Information

slot in people's choice category,"

a senior official said.

The tableau presented by

The states and Union territo-

Emmanuel Macron.



Odisha's Assistant Information Officer Harprasad Mahapatra, artist Kirti Kishore Maharana and Gaiendra Sahoo receive trophy and certificate from Union Minister of State for Tourism Ajay Bhatt in Delhi

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bhubaneswar, Jan 30: As Odisha's tableau that participated in the Republic Day parade in New Delhi bagged the first prize Tuesday, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik said it was a matter of pride.

The tableau showcased women's empowerment in the state as well as its rich handicraft and handloom sector during the 75th Republic Day parade at the Kartavya Path in the national capital.

"It is a matter of pride to be adjudged the best tableau in the Republic Day parade in New Delhi. The theme of women's empowerment is beautifully conveyed in magnificent artworks of painting and handicraft and cottage industries. My best wishes to the sculptors who made it so interesting," Patnaik posted on X. A total of 16 tableaux from

and eminent artist Kirti Kishore states and Union territories, and Maharana, who along with

he tableau showcased women's empowerment in the state as well as its rich handicraft and handloom sector during the 75th Republic Day parade at the Kartavya Path in he national capital

t presented by Odisha has finished first in the judge's choice category while Gujarat's tableau has won the top slot in people's choice category

rtisans of the heritage crafts Avillage of Raghurajpur near Puri created 'Kandarpa Hati' -- a popular 'pattachitra' design depicting 'Krishna Leela'

Gajendra Sahoo had designed the tableau, received the trophy and certificate from Union Minister of State for Tourism Ajay Bhatt at a ceremony in Delhi.

The citation read, "The tableau titled 'Women Empowerment in Viksit Bharat' presented by Odisha in the Republic Day Parade 2024 in New Delhi, is awarded the first prize in the Judge's choice category amongst states/UTs.

Artisans of the heritage crafts village of Raghurajpur near Puri created 'Kandarpa Hati' -a popular 'pattachitra' design depicting 'Krishna Leela' where nine women are entangled with each other to form the shape of an elephant -- on the 45-ft long, 14-ft wide and 16-ft high tableau.

The tableau was accompanied by a group of 14 Sambalpuri dancers.

The state had bagged the second prize four years back for its tableau on Rukuna Rath Yatra of Lingaraj Temple.



independence. For empowerment to happen, the state should think beyond concessional travel. Free commute options will directly ensure greater mobility and promote equitable access to economic opportunities," said Nguvu Collective's

Prachi Mishra, who has been

towards making Odisha the first state from Eastern India to implement a free bus service scheme for women and transgender persons. 'States with IT hubs, like

Telangana and Karnataka, have implemented schemes of this kind. As Odisha is moving towards becoming an IT hub, we should too," said Samal.

Notably, the 'Bus Yatra' campaign is being organised by members of organizations like Nguvu Collective, Third Gender Welfare Trust, Atmashakti Trust, Centre for Sustainable Use of Natural and Social Resources, Center for Public Policy Alternatives, The Humanity, Mahila Shramajeebee Mancha Odisha and Ekta Parishad Odisha

### Dense fog likely in fifteen dists during next 24 hours



Bhubaneswar, Jan 30: The

places over the districts of coastal Odisha and at one or two places of interior Odisha during the same period.

Further, the IMD has forecast dense fog in Bhubaneswar and its neighbourhood for the next 24 hours and the maximum and

## Woman relieved of chest tumour at KIMS



mained undiagnosed and untreated. It was not until she came to KIMS that the gravity of her situation was fully understood, informed the staffer.

A collaborative effort between the oncology and cardiothoracic and vascular surgery (CTVS) departments helped doctors discover the sizable tumour, which was exerting significant pres-

### **IIIT** Bhubaneswar signs MoU with BIS

### POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 30: In a move to establish a significant nexus amongst academia, industry, and government organisation, IIIT Bhubaneswar signed



government to take a bold step

Ashok Chandra Panda and BMC Mayor Sulochana Das

### POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhubaneswar, Jan 30: More than 70 women and members of the transgender community organised a 'Bus Yatra' here Tuesday to urge Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik and the state government to allow free travel for women and transgender persons in government-run buses.

The participants, who travelled in buses across the City, communicated their message through songs, placards, and posters, advocating for introduction of a scheme similar to ones operational in six states, including Telangana.

"Women in Odisha, especially those from underprivileged communities, face significant obstacles in achieving financial

campaigning for such an initiative. Another member of the col-

lective, Pranay Manjari Samal explained that 'Bus Yatra' is an innovative way of urging Chief Minister and the state



6

India Meteorological Department (IMD) Tuesday warned of dense fog at one or two places over the districts of Balasore, Bhadrak Jajpur, Kendrapara, Cuttack, Jagatsinghpur, Puri, Khurda, Nayagarh, Angul, Dhenkanal, Kandhamal, Koraput, Ravagada. and Mayurbhanj during the next 24 hours.

The weather agency has issued a 'Yellow Warning' for these districts.

Besides, shallow to moderate fog is very likely to occur at a few minimum temperatures are likely around 31°C and 17°C, respectively. The Met department said that Wednesday dense fog is likely at one or two places in Bhadrak, Kendrapara, Jagatsinghpur, Jajpur, Cuttack, Khurda, Angul, Dhenkanal. Nayagarh, Sambalpur, Kandhamal. Subarnapur, Kalahandi, Bolangir and Boudh districts

Shallow to moderate fog may also occur at a few places in Coastal districts and at one or two places in interior Odisha.

PNN & AGENCIES

Bhubaneswar, Jan 30: In a significant medical development, a 25-year-old woman successfully recovered from chest tumour surgery at the Kalinga Institute of Medical Sciences (KIMS) here Tuesday.

Sources at KIMS said that the patient, who had been suffering from chest pain, shortness of breath, and a persistent cough for two years, underwent a challenging surgery recently to get a tumour weighing approxi-

mately 4-4.5 kilograms removed. "The successful removal of the tumour marks a significant medical milestone, being one of the largest chest tumours ever extracted in that anatomical region. The patient's journey to recovery was fraught with challenges," said a hospital staffer.

Despite seeking medical help at numerous hospitals over the two years, her condition had resure on her heart and lungs.

The complexity of the case required expertise of a multidisciplinary team. "A team of doctors treated the patient. It included Chandan Kumar Ray Mohapatra, associate professor of Cardiothoracic Surgery, Subrat Sahoo, professor of general surgery, Jogomaya Pattnaik, associate professor of medical oncology and the consultant cardiac anesthesiologists, Ashok Badmali and Gyanaranjan Mishra," informed the staffer.

Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) here Tuesday.

The collaboration between IIIT-Bhubaneswar and BIS will aim for fruitful growth and mutual development through new research initiatives in the areas of standardisation, conformity assessment and quality processes.

The partnership will explore the introduction of short-term education programmes and improvement of infrastructure and laboratory facilities to boost wider research, teaching and education in the fields related to standardisation.

IIIT Bhubaneswar director Ashish Ghosh and BIS Bhubaneswar branch director AK Purohit were present for the signature ceremony while BIS Scientist-G and Deputy Director

General, Eastern Region Dibyendu Chakrabarti joined the occasion in online mode.

Speaking on this occasion. Chakrabarti underscored the increasing need for such collaborations for creating awareness and interest in these topics. He also cited examples of their erstwhile collaborations with IIT Roorkee and IIT Kharagpur.

Ghosh highlighted the fresh perspective that young students can bring in these research areas and thereby bolster the process of knowledge production. The MoU signals a momentous partnership poised to make meaningful contributions to both academia as well as the society-at-large, he said.

### Playing musical instrument keeps brain sharp in old age

ontinuing to play a musical instrument, particularly the piano, into later life has been linked with a sharper brain in a new study.

Researchers found that the benefits included an improved memory and a better ability to solve complex tasks, known as executive functions.

The researchers, including those at the University of Exeter. UK, reviewed data from more than a thousand adults over the age of 40 years to see the effect of playing a musical instrument or singing in a choir on brain health.

Their work also suggested that singing too was linked to better brain health, although the team said this may also be due to the



social factors of being part of a choir or group. Their findings are published in the International Journal of Geriatric Psychiatry. To determine whether musicality helped keep the brain

sharp in later life, the researchers reviewed participants' musical experience and lifetime exposure to music, along with their results of cognitive testing. The participants were a part of a

Promoting musical education could be a valuable part of public health initiatives to promote a protective lifestyle for brain health, along with encouraging older adults to return to music in later life ANNE CORBETT | PROFESSOR OF DEMENTIA RESEARCH AT THE UNIVERSITY OF EXETER

larger PROTECT study, which has been running for 10 years and includes over 25,000 people.

"Overall, we think that being musical could be a way of harnessing the brain's agility and resilience, known as cognitive reserve," said study author, Anne Corbett, Professor of Dementia Research

at the University of Exeter.

Even as more research is needed to investigate this relationship, there was "considerable evidence for the benefit of music group activities for individuals with dementia, and this approach could be extended as part of a healthy ageing package for older adults to enable them to proactively reduce their risk and to promote brain health, said Corbett.

The findings indicated that promoting musical education could be a valuable part of public health initiatives to promote a protective lifestyle for brain health, along with encouraging older adults to return to music in later life, said Corbett.

Meenakshi Cong women wing new president

Bhubaneswar: Keeping the 2024 general elections in view, the Odisha Pradesh Mahila Congress has appointed Meenakshi Bahinipati, wife of senior Congress leader and Jeypore MLA Tara Prasad Bahinipati, as president of the party's women wing. This was informed by All India Congress Committee general secretary KC Venugopal in a press release. "Hon'ble Congress President has approved the proposal of the appointment of Meenakshi Bahinipati as the president of Odisha Pradesh Mahila Congress, with immediate effect," read the release. Meenaksh has already proven her mettle while discharging the responsibility of Koraput District Mahila Congress. She is also known as a powerful woman leader in southern parts of the state. It is worth mentioning that the Bahinipati couple had met Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge during the latter's Odisha visit Monday.

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### **OrissaPOST** WEDNESDAY | JANUARY 31 | 2024 | BHUBANESWAR

## state

# **LACCMI boon for Rayagada residents** BUS SERVICE HELPING PEOPLE COMMUTE FROM REMOTE AREAS AND EKE OUT A LIVING BUS SERVICE HELPING PEOPLE COMMUTE FROM REMOTE AREAS AND EKE OUT A LIVING

#### POST NEWS NETWORK

Rayagada, Jan 30: The statelaunched Location Accessible Multi-modal Initiative (LAccMI) bus service has come as a huge boon in this tribal-dominated district. The service has enabled commuting to remote corners of the district at affordable prices, passengers said here Tuesday.

The Odisha government has recently launched LAccMI services in many districts of the state. Rayagada is one of the districts to benefit from the scheme. Students, farmers, traders and people of other professions are now utilising the facilities the service offers. The lack of transport facilities now appears like a distant dream.

Students Shankar Panda and Manisha said that earlier they had to spend Rs 75-100 on a daily basis to travel and return from their respective educational institutions. Now after the launch of the LAccMI service they have to spend at the most Rs 10 daily. Teacher Sahadev Bachheli said that earlier he had to spend a sizeable amount as he had to ei

**BJP retains Dhiren** 

as spokesperson

POST NEWS NETWORK

ther go by an auto-rickshaw or his two-wheeler to his place of work (school) at Pipalguda under Kolnara block from his residence. Now he can do the needful for just Rs 30.

Farmers and small traders are all praise for the bus service. Earlier they had to spend a fortune on tempos or autos to bring their produces to this town. "We had to

shell out close to Rs 500 BUSES whenever we had to INTRODUCED IN transport vegetables **RAYAGADA OF** from our villages to WHICH 39 ARE IN this town," informed OPERATION Shibaraj Mandangi, a farmer. "It was eating 98 BUS STOPS WITH

into our profits. Now, SHEDS BEING BUILT without any additional TO FACILITATE TRAVEL payment we can bring

the produces to Rayagada. The bus service has definitely proved to be beneficial for us," he added

Officials said that the Odisha government has introduced 41 buses for this district. Currently 39 are plying on different routes. Two have been kept as standby in case any of the buses develop a snag or need maintenance. They added that 298 bus stops with proper sheds are being constructed in 11 blocks of this district.

Manager of LAccMI scheme in this district, Soumya Ranjan Mishra informed that the construction of the designated bus stops will be completed soon. He added that the earnings through the service vary between Rs 50,000 to Rs 60,000 on weekdays and Rs 25,000 to Rs 30,000 Sundays

The LAccMI service has also changed the livelihood of many people in the district. As part of the women empowerment programme, Pinki Kandagiri has been appointed as a conductor. She failed to pursue education after Plus-II due to financial constraints. Now she earns a good amount to support her family and the financial crisis has disappeared.



POST NEWS NETWORK

Rourkela, Jan 30: The first direct flight from Kolkata arrived here Tuesday amid much fanfare. The Alliance Air flight was given a water cannon welcome when it arrived at the airport here around 2.00pm in the afternoon.

The Kolkata-Rourkela-Bhubaneswar-Rourkela-Kolkata flight will operate every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, informed Alliance Air manager here Rahul Singh. However, even though the flight arrived here and left for Bhubaneswar, the final leg of the journey (Bhubaneswar-Rourkela- Kolkata) was abandoned due to various reasons.

In its maiden flight from Kolkata to here, the aircraft had 33 passengers and when it left for

Deceased's kin thrashes 'intoxicated' doc

### Jr engineer under Vigilance scanner



POST NEWS NETWORK

Malkangiri, Jan 30: Vigilance sleuths conducted raids Tuesday on a number of properties of a junior engineer (JE) of the Water Resources Department in this district on charges of amassing assets disproportionate to his known sources of income, officials said Tuesday. The accused has been identified as Sanjay Kumar Mohanty. Among the places where raids were conducted were Mohanty's rented house and office.

During the raids officials seized Rs 1,48,000 in cash, a motorcycle, 30 ATM cards, passbooks of different banks and other important documents from Mohanty's house. Documents regarding a three-storey house in the name of a relative of Mohanty were also seized. Officials said that Mohanty owns two acres of land at Jaleswar in Balasore district.

#### A simultaneous raid was also conducted in Bhubaneswar at the house of Mohanty's in-laws. The sleuths also found Mohanty to be the owner of a flat and a four-wheeler.

It has been alleged that Mohanty demanded commission from contractors for allotting them work. Those who did not pay were denied contracts. An additional SP, three DSPs and eight inspectors were part of the raiding teams.



### 1) e-Tender Notice No. e-Tender-Elect-G-83-23 DESCRIPTION OF WORK : FOR AUTOMIZED OPERATION

## Snag in boat leaves passengers stranded

Rourkela, Jan 30: The president of the state unit of the BJF Manmohan Samal released Tuesday the names of spokespersons of the party in a press release. Ahead of the elections in Odisha, this is a significant development. Party veteran Dhiren Senapati has been retained as one of the spokespersons. Dhiren has been a member of the party since the 1990s.

Dhiren has been the president of Rourkela Nagar Mandal in the 1990s. Then he was given the responsibility to lead the party on two occasions as Sundargarh district president. He has also been secretary of the BJP unit in Odisha as well as the spokesperson.

"I am happy that the state unit has again bestowed its confidence in me to do my duty as its spokesperson. I have tried my level best to discharge my responsibility in the past and will also do so in future," Dhiren said. He also thanked Samal



POST NEWS NETWORK

Mahakalapara, Jan 30: A total of 50 persons had a close shave with disaster after the boat they had boarded developed an engine snag Tuesday morning leaving them stranded on the Mahanadi for over three hours in Kendrapara district. The boat was on its way to Paradip from Bahakud-Musadia ghat. The boat had reached the middle of the river when it developed a me-

forthcoming. After more than three hours fishermen and locals noticed the boat and stranded passengers and rushed to their rescue. The passengers were accommodated in another boat and brought to the Bahakud-Musadia ghat from where they left for their respective destinations. Passengers alleged that though

they remained stranded in the middle of the river for over three hours, there was no help from the administration. They thanked the locals for saving them.

# added that the doctor was also in-

Bolangir, Jan 30: A doctor of the

Bhima Bhoi Medical College

and Hospital here was thrashed

talk in a proper manner. Family members of Niku said he fell ill Monday and was admitted to the hospital in the evening in critical condition. Despite repeated requests, no one attended to Niku for a substantial period of time. Niku's condition deteriorated and he breathed his last. Finally at around 11.00pm a doctor came to check Niku.

However, by that time, Niku had already breathed his last. Relatives of the deceased found the doctor in an inebriated con-



dition when an argument broke out. The family members blamed the doctor for Niku's death and started thrashing him up. Finally security guards at the hospital rescued the doctor and whisked

him away to safety.

abort the landing.

Tension prevailed at the hospital Tuesday morning also. A large contingent of cops was seen moving inside the hospital complex keeping watch on the situation.

Bhubaneswar, 44 people were on board. The flight arrived after

two hours and 30 minutes delay,

but people did not seem to mind.

as to whether the flights will

happen in a seamless manner.

This is because of the position

of the airport here and other

climatic issues. The airport has

poor visibility as it is situated

close to a hill range and due to

early sunsets. Hence pilots are

apprehensive about bringing

the aircraft to the airport in the

The delay in arrival and land-

ing at the airport here was due

to low visibility. Officials pointed

out that until the Instrument

Landing System (ILS) is installed

at the airport, problems will

plague flight services. They said

that at present landings at the air-

port take place with staff trained

in visual flight rule (VFR) using

the approach control system.

However, even then the VFR is

not the safest operational pro-

cedure. In case a pilot feels that

the aircraft and the passengers

are at risk, he/she can always

latter part of the day.

However, there are still doubts

Bhima Bhoi Medical College and Hospital superintendent Manasi Panda meanwhile informed Tuesday that a probe has been initiated to find out the truth about the allegations of the doctor being drunk. "We have formed a panel with six senior doctors to look into the incident. Action will be initiated if the allegations are true. Even though, I know the incident happened Monday night no formal complaint has been lodged with us or with the police. Panda informed.

Bhima Bhoi Medical College and Hospital had staged a ceasework over an alleged assault on their colleague Biswaranjan Sahu December 29, 2023

It should be stated here that,

scores of house surgeons of the

### Lone teacher for 129 students

ଚ ତନ୍ମ ଶଙ୍ଗଳ ଅଞ୍ଚାୟତ ସମ୍ମିତି ଉଚ୍ଚ ବିଦ୍ୟାଳୟ

Alongside Rout, five retired teachers have been appointed till March this year as guest tutors

chanical problem and stopped.

Initially there was no help



POST NEWS NETWORK

mercilessly Monday night by the family members of a deceased for alleged negligence. The deceased, identified as Niku Barik, 30, from this town died as he was not attended to in a proper manner, his family alleged. They



POST NEWS NETWORK

Bhawanipatna, Jan 30: A total of 129 students of Ratan Bhoi Panchayat Samiti High School under Karlamunda block of Kalahandi district have only one permanent government teacher to teach them, a source informed here Tuesday.

According to the source, the school's mathematics teacher Purnachandra Rout remains the lone one in the school following the retirement of several teachers over the past few years.

in a stop-gap arrangement.

The source informed that Rout is the only remaining permanent teacher in the school after the retirement of Nursingha Samanta in 2018, Pabitra Mohan Pasha in 2020, Basanta Patnaik, Pradipta Sarangi, and Benudhar Nag in 2022, and Markanda Padhi and Headmaster Prasanna Kumar Pradhan in 2023. Additionally, the school's clerk Ambilal Sahu is set to retire January 31.

When contacted, teacher Purnachandra said there is a shortage of teachers and classrooms. Earlier, more than 250 students were enrolled in the school he added

However, school managing committee chairman Nandi Kishore Bhoi said that the number of students is declining due to the shortage of teachers.

The residents of the area have demanded the district education department and the District Collector to look into the matter and appoint teachers.



CULTURE FEST: Artistes from Kala 'O' Kalakar cultural outfit performed the 'Panchabadya' recital Tuesday as part of the celebrations to mark the public dedication of SAMALEI project in Sambalpur

MONITORING OF PUMPS WITH REPLACEMENT OF PUMPING LOCATIONS OVER KHURDA ROAD DIVISION.

Approx Cost of the work (₹): 2,27,98,805.32, EMD (₹): 2,64,000.00

2) e-Tender Notice No. e-Tender-Elect-G-84-2 DESCRIPTION OF WORK : BALANCE ELECTRIFICATION WORK TOWARDS ONSTRUCTION OF TRAI MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (TMS) CENTER AT KHURDAROAD.

#### Approx Cost of the work (₹) 34,16,988.09, EMD (₹): 68,300.00

Completion period : 06 Months (for

#### Tender Closing Date and Time : At 150 Hrs. of 14.02.2024 (for both the

No manual offers sent by Post / Courie Fax or in person accepted against suc -tenders even if these are submitted of firm's letter head and received in time. A such manual offers shall be considere nvalid and shall be rejected summar ithout any conside

omplete information including e-tend nents of the above e-tender ailable in website : http://www.ireps.gov.i

Note : The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website 10 (Ten days before the date of closing of tender t note any changes / corrigendum issue for this tender.

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (G) PR-1039/O/23-24 Khurda Road

## 'Hanu Man' helps Rayagada man achieve fame

Milan worked as the assistant director of the Telugu film which has become a super hit

### POST NEWS NETWORK

Rayagada, Jan 30: Milan Kumar Nayak, a resident of this town, has carved a niche for himself by working as the assistant director in the recently-released super hit Telugu film Hanu Man, sources said here Tuesday. Milan's father was an employee of a paper mill here while his mother is a homemaker.

Hanu Man which hit theatre screens across the country January 12, has drawn applause from the viewers for blending the traditional genre of the devotional story with contemporary superhero narrative. It has received huge praise from all sections of the society.

The film has so far done business of over Rs 275 crores. However, such is the popularity of the film that it may even cross the Rs 500-crore mark.

Sources said that filmmaking was not the initial choice of Milan. After earning a B-Tech degree in engineering, he worked in a multi-national company for three years. However, he had a penchant for films since childhood and it finally drew him to the world of film making. This love for movies grew after he watched plays and films on a regular basis.



Milan has worked as assistant director so far in four films However, it is because of the success of Hanu Man he has been lauded for his directorial skills. Milan was born at JKPur in

Rayagada district. He, after completing his Plus II, did his B.Tech from Paralakhemundi. However, his passion for films took him to Mumbai. He has also worked as assistant director in two Hindi

films titled Lupt and Modiji Ki Beti. Milan shifted to Hyderabad in 2019 where he directed two Telugu films. Then he joined the unit of Hanu Man. He handled sets, post production and screenplay and other aspects of film making.

When contacted, Milan said he hopes to work as a full-fledged director in future. He also expressed his interest to work in Odia films if he is given a chance. He said that a person can certainly achieve his goals if he has a strong will. He added that he still remembers his initial days of struggle, but it has 'helped him to grow'. Milan is currently living here with his family who are overjoyed with his success. They are hoping that he continues to achieve success in all his future endeavours.

#### **GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA** DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER RAIRANGPUR IRRIGATION DIVISION, RAIRANGPUR e-mail: eerrpureicwr.od@gov.in / eerrpurdivn@gmail.com No.A-1323 'e' - Procurement Notice No.04 RID/2023-24

1	Name of works	••	Canal improvement work, Bank protection works and Road & Bridge works as mentioned in the website.
2	Total No. of works		18 Nos. (Eighteen) only
23	Amount put to tender	÷	Varies from 7.57 Lakh to 39.54 Lakh
4	Class of contractor	Ē	'D', 'C' & 'B'
5	Period of completion	Ē	As mentioned against work.
5 6	Other details as follows	ŀ	
(i)	Procurement Officer	:	Superintending Engineer, Rairangpur Irrigation Division, Rairangpur
(ii)	Availability of tender online for bidding	:	01.02.2024 from 10.00 hours to 12.02.2024 upto 17.00 hours.
(iii)	Date, time and place of opening of bid	•	On 13.02.2024 at 11.00 hours in the O/o the Superintending Engineer, Rairangpur Irrigation Division, Rairangpur.
(iv)	Date of Transparent Lottery to be conducted (if required)		On 17.02.2024 at 11.00 A.M. in the O/o the Superintending Engineer, Rairangpur Irrigation Division, Rairangpur.
	her details can be seen dersorissa.gov.in	n	from the 'e' Procurement Portal http://
			Sd./- Superintending Engineer,
	Rai	ra	ngpur Irrigation Division, Rairangpur
			OIPR-32349/11/0007/2324



## power post

### FOCUS GEOPOLITICS

Delight is the secret. Learn of pure delight and thou shalt learn of God. **SRI AUROBINDO** 



## Hijab & Polls

s the country is fast gearing towards the Lok Sabha election mode to elect a new government at the Centre, there are tell-tale signs of the electoral strategies the two main contenders – the BJP and the Congress - seem to be getting ready to adopt. The hype over the Ayodhya temple leaves no one in doubt that the BJP will try to cash in on the religious sentiments of its main constituency. To reinforce it, it appears, the BJP MLA from Rajasthan's Hawa Mahal, Balmukund Acharya, has raised the hijab issue once again, objecting to girls wearing hijab at a government school. Taking a cue from him, a Cabinet minister of the state Kirodi Lal Meena said he would talk to Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma about enforcing a ban on the head covering in all government and private schools in the state.

After Acharya visited the Government Girls' Secondary School in Jaipur's Gangapol locality 29 January, a video surfaced showing him pulling up a school administrator over some students wearing the hijab. In another video he is seen asking school authorities to stop students from wearing the hijab in school, which has a mix of Hindoo and Moslem children. He was so determined to show his religious predilections that he led the students in chants of Bharat Mata Ki Jai and Saraswati Mata Ki Jai. In the video that went viral he was heard taking note that some girls were not joining the chorus and then he asked them whether they were silent as per instructions.

The Moslem students were so enraged by the outrageous behaviour of the MLA that they gheraoed the Subhash Chowk police station, demanding that the MLA stop "vitiating the atmosphere in schools" and apologise for his actions. One protesting student even raised a pertinent point that since the MLA goes to the Assembly wearing a saffron robe why he was discriminating against the hijab.

After the incident, Moslem and Hindoo students submitted separate complaints to the police. Deputy Commissioner of Police (Jaipur North) Rashi Dogra said the complaints had been forwarded to the District Collector. "Both groups are alleging that they are not being allowed to follow their religious practices in the school," she said.

Minister Meena went further and parroted the BJP's favourite line of political argument that because of "the fanaticism in the Muslim community" and "the appeasement politics" of the Congress, the community has not been able to progress. He also insisted the dress code in schools should be followed. He shared his pearl of wisdom that if a girl goes to school wearing a hijab, there would not be discipline in school and students will wear any dress in schools.

In fact, a controversy around the hijab in educational institutions raged in December 2021 in Karnataka when six college students in Udupi district were denied entry because of the head covering. The then BJP government of that state had also issued a circular that pre-university colleges must adhere to the dress code. Six students approached the Karnataka High Court, which upheld the state government's order. The case is now being challenged in the Supreme Court. With the change of government the Congress Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said he had instructed officials that there would be no restrictions on wearing the hijab. However, a day after saying this he did a volte-face and said that the state government was only contemplating such a move.

Meanwhile, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge lashed out at Prime Minister Narendra Modi 29 January saying that he would bring dictatorship if voted back to power. Addressing a rally in Bhubaneswar, Kharge appealed to people to save democracy, and expressed the fear that if Modi wins this coming Lok Sabha polls, there will not be another election after that. He even compared the situation in Russia with India. "Like (Vladimir) Putin's presidential election in Russia the same will happen in India.<sup>3</sup>

Ironically, Kharge seems to have conceded defeat when he said the BJP will get 200, 300, 400 and 500 seats. Then in an act of desperation tinged with despondency he told voters that they can either save democracy or become slaves "like under the British regime."

The Congress appears to have messed up the attempts to stitch together a viable Opposition by denying Nitish Kumar the post of the convenor of the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance (INDIA). The post is coveted in the sense that it puts the leader occupying it ahead of others in the bloc in the race to become the next PM in the event of victory. Kumar had been sulking for some time for having been sidelined in the INDIA bloc. It now is clear that all this while he was secretly

# **'THE REST' REJECT THE WEST**

s the war in Gaza enters its fourth month, many in the Middle East and across the Global South have been struck both by the ferocity of Israel's military campaign and by Western governments' unwavering support for it. To them, this is as much US President Joe Biden's war as it is Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's, and the continuing indifference to the scale of the devastation has reaffirmed how cheap Arab lives appear to be to Western leaders.

For those who lived through the Cold War and witnessed how Western powers dealt with post-colonial states and their peoples, recent events are all too familiar. As I argue in my new book, What Really Went Wrong: The West and the Failure of Democracy in the Middle East, the United States and other Western countries, mainly the United Kingdom, have for nearly a century pursued an interventionist, militaristic, and antidemocratic foreign policy that largely ignores Middle Eastern peoples' interests. If anything, Western decisions have been driven historically by the desire to roll back communism and secure the dominance of liberal capitalism.

In pursuit of these twin aims, the US offered Middle Eastern leaders a zero-sum choice: either join in Western-led regional defense alliances and open your economy to global capital, or be considered a foe. In the name of maintaining stability and securing an uninterrupted flow of cheap oil, Western powers struck devil's pacts with Middle Eastern autocrats and actively contributed to the demise of incipient democratic movements.

Notably, in the early 1950s, when the liberal democrat Mohammed Mossadegh became prime minister of Iran and nationalised the country's oil, the CIA and MI6 orchestrated a coup and replaced him with the Shah. That self-interested intervention arrested Iran's democratic development and set the stage for the 1979 Islamic Revolution, which ushered in the theocratic regime that



For those who lived through the Cold War and witnessed how Western powers dealt with post-colonial states and their peoples, recent events are all too familiar

rules to this day.

Similarly, in the 1950s, Gamal Abdel Nasser, a charismatic leader who was positively disposed toward the US, became president of Egypt and decided that it was not in his country's interest to join a Western-led defense pact. Seeking to humiliate him and force his ouster, America and Britain rescinded support for the massive Aswan High Dam project on the Nile River. What resulted was the Suez Crisis of 1956, which almost caused a world war. In the end, the most popular leader of the most populous Arab state became a bitter enemy of the West.

While the US-led West has certainly taken a heavy-handed approach in other regions as well, Western officials have long rationalised their neo-imperial mission in the Middle East by claiming that the combination of Islam and Arab culture is incompatible with democracy. The implication is that brutal strongmen are essential to the stability that the West so values.

The lesson for those strongmen has been unambiguous: repression and human-rights abuses will be ignored as long as America's orders are followed. For the people of the region, the lesson has been no less plain: their lives and rights mean little in the West's calculus – notwithstanding all its lofty rhetoric about democracy and the rule of law. The invasion and decades-long occupation of Afghanistan and Iraq made that abundantly clear. Barack Obama was the first US president to hint at a different approach. Speaking at the US Military Academy at West Point in 2014, he decried America's perpetual wartime footing and tendency to shoot first and ask questions later. America's costliest mistakes in the region had come not from restraint, he argued, but from the 'willingness to rush into military adventures without thinking through the consequences without building international support and legitimacy for ... action; without leveling with the American people about the sacrifices required.'

Sadly, Obama's sober perspective appears to be lost on Biden, who belongs to the Cold War generation of American leadership. Until last October, Biden had devoted little time or attention to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. He readily accepted the untenable status quo of perpetual Palestinian suffering, and focused instead on trying to expand the Abraham Accords. Those agreements, brokered by the Trump administration, sought to normalise Israel's relations with Arab autocrats in exchange for security assistance and protection, thereby ending the region's commitment to Palestinian statehood.

Since Hamas' brutal attack on October 7-which exposed the folly of Biden and Netanyahu's approach - there has been nei-

ther restraint nor an effort to think through the consequences of the current war. Instead, Biden and his European allies have wholeheartedly endorsed Israel's all-out assault on Gaza. Even as the civilian death toll has risen at an unprecedented pace, the humanitarian crisis grows more acute by the day, and governments around the world have called for a ceasefire. Biden has shown no willingness to intervene to stop the bloodshed.

Meanwhile, skirmishes on the Israel-Lebanon border and US-led airstrikes on Houthi positions in Yemen and on Iranianbacked militias in Iraq suggest that the conflict may yet escalate further. America and Britain are gradually being sucked into the region yet again, though with eyes wide open this time. Biden claimed to represent a clean break from Trump, but there is no daylight between them when it comes to the Middle East. There and in much of the Global South, Biden will be remembered as just another American president who devalued Arab lives, preaching democracy while supporting repression and violence.

Biden may soon regret his wholehearted embrace of Netanyahu in recent months. Netanyahu, an expert at manipulating the American political process, recently rebuffed Biden's support for establishing a Palestinian state, insisting that Israel must have security control "over all the territory west of the Jordan [River.]" That pronouncement was timed to the start of the US presidential campaign, in which Trump is his preferred candidate.

Even if Biden ultimately se cures a second term, the tragic irony is that the Middle East is less stable today than at any point in its modern history. The West's strategy has been a colossal failure, and this legacy will burden our world for a very long time.

The writer is Professor of International Relations at the London School of Economics. ©Project Syndicate

### SPECTRUM IN JEST THIS

Fawaz A. Gerges

**BIDEN CLAIMED** 

**TO REPRESENT A** 

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FROM TRUMP,

**BUT THERE IS** 

**NO DAYLIGHT** 

**MIDDLE EAST** 

TO THE

**BETWEEN THEM** 

WHEN IT COMES

# One dog is quite enough for me

clinching a deal with the BJP. The Congress' obduracy to puncture Nitish's prime ministerial ambition on rather the flimsy ground that Trinamool supremo Mamata Banerjee had reservations about him proved to be the last straw. It may be viewed by some as a rank bad move

Whatever Nitish's credibility, it is no denying the fact that his departure from the Opposition camp makes the task of overthrowing the BJP even more difficult. Kharge was economical with truth when he asserted that Nitish's exit from INDIA would not weaken the bloc. How these acts play out on the broader election screen will be seen by all of us very soon.

### WISDOM CORNER

In matters of style, swim with the current; in matters of principle, stand like a rock.

THOMAS JEFFERSON

- The doctor sees all the weakness of mankind; the lawyer all the vickedness. the theologian all the stupidity. ARTHUR SCHOPENHAUER
- To be yourself in a world that is constantly trying to make you something else is the greatest accomplishment

RALPH WALDO EMERSON

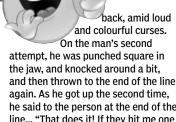
### THIS DAY IN HISTORY

- **1943:** German Field Marshal Friedrich Paulus surrendered to the Soviet Red Army at Stalingrad (now Volgograd), his troops surrendering two days later.
- 1958: Explorer 1 was the first artificial space satellite orbited by the United States, marking the country's entry into the space race.
- 1966: The Soviets launched Luna 9. the first spacecraft to make a soft landing on the Moon.
- **1996:** A suicide bombing in Sri Lanka kills 91 people. Separatist Tamil Tigers detonated a truck loaded with explosives in front of the central bank in Colombo.
- **2000:** Alaska Airlines flight 261 crashes into the sea. The MD-83 experienced horizontal stabilizer problems before descending into the Pacific Ocean, killing all 88 passengers on board.
- 2011: Myanmar's first elected parliament in half a century convenes. The event underlined a general move towards democracy in the country.

### LOL

### The crowded store

t was the day of the big sale. Rumours of the sale (and some advertising in the local paper) were the main reason for the long line that formed by 8:30 am, the store's opening time, in front of the store. A small man pushed his way to the front of the line, only to be pushed



are most welcome to contribute letters (200 words), articles and columns (between 750-1250 words). Contributors are back, amid loud requested to send their contact numbers and full postal address/email ID. They may also send in their valuable comments, opinion and suggestions, preferably by email, to: edit@orissapost.com OrissaPOST

he said to the person at the end of the line... "That does it! If they hit me one more time, I won't open the store!"



Melvin Durai

I HAVE SEEN PEOPLE WALKING **TWO DOGS AT THE** SAME TIME, AND **THEY USUALLY** LOOK TWICE AS

TIRED AS ME

etters

0

TO THE EDITOR

B-15, Rasulgarh Industrial Estate,

var-751010

Readers of Orissa POST

internet post from a dog owner who wants to rehome the dog. To "rehome" a pet is to find a new home for the pet, passing on the responsibilities to someone else. Taking care of a dog isn't always easy, and I have to admit that on rare occasions, when I'm walking my dog, Lulu, in extremely cold weather, the thought of rehoming her has crossed my mind.

But I always banish the thought. I never bring it up with my wife, Malathi. She would never rehome Lulu, not without first considering rehoming me. Given a choice between Lulu and me, my wife would choose the family member who has never barked at her.

Malathi loves animals, especially dogs. When she hears that someone wants to rehome their dog, her first reaction is to send me an email: "Can we please have this dog?"

My response is always the

very now and then, I see an same: "Okay, but only if they're willing to take Lulu in exchange." I am kidding about this, of course. I like Lulu and would not trade her for anything that doesn't have wheels

A few months ago, Malathi wanted to adopt a St. Bernard that someone was trying to rehome. Malathi persuaded me to accompany her on a visit to the St. Bernard's home to conduct a dog interview of sorts. She was hoping I would fall in love with the dog. But this was never going to happen, because in my eyes, any dog I met would be known as "second dog." And for me to fall in love with "second dog," something incredible would need to happen, such as "second dog" playing Beethoven's "Sonata No. 29" on a piano.

Short of that, I wouldn't be taking "second dog" home with me. In the case of the St. Bernard, there was no hint of any piano talent, just the prospect of having a dog as big as a piano.

This dog was indeed huge. Lulu is fairly big herself—she's a Siberian husky—but the St. Bernard was on another level. Taking him home would be like taking home "second, third and fourth dogs combined.

Thankfully, Malathi didn't push me too hard to adopt the St. Bernard, perhaps realising that he was a little too big, and there'd be no room for her on our couch.

But she still wishes she could get a second dog, still wishes she had not married a one-dog man. That's why I offer this advice to all couples: before you get married, make sure you discuss not only how many children you'd like to have, but also how many dogs, cats, chickens and goats. Otherwise, you are just setting yourself up for dis-

appointment. It is possible, of course, to persuade your partner to see things your way. This is what Malathi did with children. We agreed to have two children, but she persuaded me to have a third child by using the tried-and-true persuasive technique of waving a positive pregnancy test in my face.

Trust me, if Malathi could get a second dog the same way, she would.

But persuading me to get a second dog is a difficult task, because I know how much responsibility a single dog requires. I also learned, way back in primary school, how to multiply by two. My wife, of course, tells me that two dogs do not involve twice as much responsibility as one dog. I can take them for walks at the same time, she savs. But I have seen people walking two dogs at the same time, and they usually look twice as tired as me.

I should mention that my wife doesn't just want a second dogshe also wants a cat. Unfortunately, I'm allergic to cats

Perhaps I should have mentioned that before we got married.

### Deep-rooted dysfunction

Sir, The political landscape of India is witnessing seismic shifts as Nitish Kumar, a stalwart of the Opposition alliance, makes a dramatic exit, rejoining the BJP-led NDA. This move, undoubtedly, deals a devastating blow to the grand Opposition coalition, INDIA, arriving at a critical juncture when the BJP rides high on the momentum garnered from the Ram temple inauguration in Ayodhya, with the 2024 general elections looming ominously close. Nitish Kumar's exit from the INDIA bloc, Mamata Banerjee's scathing remarks against the Congress and Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann's announcement that his party AAP would contest independently in Punjab severing ties with Congress, underscore the deep-rooted dysfunction within the Opposition alliance. These developments lay bare the inadequacies that have plagued the coalition, rendering previous meetings and negotiations futile. The failure to achieve cohesion on key aspects such as seat-sharing, strategy formulation, and communication has severely undermined the Opposition's effectiveness on the ground. Instead of presenting a united front, internal discord and ego clashes have eroded the alliance's credibility and strength. However, all these developments would only pave the way for BJP's straight third victory.

N Sadhasiva Reddy, BANGALORE

### Rhino killings

Sir, After an uneventful 2022 when no rhino was harmed in the famous Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve of Assam, 2023 witnessed two rhino killings, one with its horn missing, in Kaziranga. Now, poachers have struck again by killing an adult female rhino and decamping with its horn. Local poachers, hand-in-glove with international smugglers, pose a big threat to the rhinos numbering 2,613. The task force, with dedicated commandos, setup by the Assam government, did a commendable job by ensuring no poaching of the endangered animals in 2022. So, it can safely be assumed that there was a massive breach in security or a few unscrupulous elements in the park were hand-in-glove with the poachers that resulted in the rhino killings of late. The entire security apparatus including the CCTV cameras require an extensive examination and overhaul. At the same time, a methodical review of logistics, personnel and training would not be out of place.

Ganapathi Bhat, AKOLA



TWOSTATES

# Won't allow CAA in Bengal as long as I am alive: Mamata

The Bengal CM's remarks were prompted by Union minister and BJP leader Shantanu Thakur's recent assertion that the CAA would be rolled out across the country within a week



### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Raiganj (WB), Jan 30**: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee Tuesday lambasted the BJP for raising the CAA issue ahead of the Lok Sabha polls, asserting that she will never allow its implementation in the state during her lifetime.

Speaking at a programme at Raiganj in Uttar Dinajpur district, she alleged that the BJP 'opportunistically raised' the issue of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act or CAA ahead of the upcoming elections.

"With elections approaching, the BJP has again raked up the CAA issue to reap political benefits. But let me make it very clear that as long as I am alive, I will not allow its implementation in West Bengal," Banerjee

affirmed, echoing sentiments expressed on the previous day. Her remarks were prompted

by Union minister and BJP leader Shantanu Thakur's recent assertion that the CAA would be rolled out across the country within a week.

Thakur's statement, made during a public gathering at Kakdwip in South 24 Parganas district Sunday, fuelled concerns regarding the imminent enforcement of the controversial legislation.

The CAA, enacted by the BJPled government at the Centre in 2019, seeks to grant Indian citizenship to persecuted non-Muslim immigrants, including Hindus, Sikhs, Jains, Buddhists, Parsis, and Christians, from Bangladesh, Pakistan, and Afghanistan who entered India before December 31, 2014. Expressing alarm over reports

of the Border Security Force (BSF) allegedly issuing separate identity cards to residents in border areas, Banerjee cautioned people against accepting such cards, labelling those as potential tools in an 'NRC trap.'

"They are issuing separate identity cards to people living in border areas. Never accept these cards. This is a trap," Banerjee warned, emphasising the need for vigilance among border communities.

Banerjee's assertions align with her earlier claims in Cooch Behar district, where she accused the BSF of similar actions, a charge denied by the paramilitary force. The CM rallied support against

what she characterised as an alliance between the Congress, CPI(M), and BJP in West Bengal, urging people to unite under the Trinamool Congress (TMC) banner to counter this perceived threat. "It is the TMC that is fight-

ing for the rights of the people
of the state. We all have to unite
to defeat the Congress-CPI(M)BJP nexus in Bengal," Banerjee
said, calling for solidarity among
citizens.

Her remarks follow her recent announcement of the TMC's decision to contest the upcoming Lok Sabha polls in West Bengal alone.



Congress workers raise slogans during a protest against BJP leader Suvendu Adhikari over his alleged controversial remark on Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, in Kolkata, Tuesday

### CPI(M) ensures bigger role in Rahul's yatra

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kolkata, Jan 30: As now it is almost certain that Trinamool Congress will not be participating in the Congress' second phase of Nyay Yatra within the territory of West Bengal starting with Malda district from January 31, the CPI(M) leadership has promised bigger and more heavyweight participation in that programme of the country's oldest national party.

The Nyay Yatra, Monday, entered Bihar and from Wednesday it will start its second phase in West Bengal from Malda district. CPI(M) insiders said that while there was participation



from the party's district-level leadership at the rally at Jalpaiguri and Siliguri towns led by Rahul Gandhi Sunday, in the second phase there will be participation from the party's central-level leadership, including politburo and central committee. As of now, the participation of

the CPI(M) politburo member and the party's state secretary in West Bengal Md Salim and the CPI(M) central committee member Sujan Chakraborty in the second phases of Nyay Yatra is also confirmed. Congress leadership has specially invited the most prominent youth face in CPI(M) and the state president of party's youth wing Minakshi Mukherjee to specially mark her presence at the rally.

Mukherjee will also participate in Nyay Yatra's second phase, said sources.

Meanwhile, with West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee having already made clear that Trinamool Congress will go alone in the state in the forthcoming Lok Sabha election, the CPI(M) leadership wants to begin the seat-sharing talks with Congress now at the earliest.

**OrissaPOS** 

WEDNESDAY | JANUARY 31 | 2024 | BHUBANESWAR

"On one hand, the Bihar Chief Minister has officially broken away from the Opposition INDIA bloc. Although Mamata Banerjee has not made any similar breakup announcement with the bloc, she has made her intentions clear of going alone in West Bengal. So this is the right time to start mutual seat-sharing talks with Congress and we will appeal to the Congress leadership to start the process at the earliest," said a central committee member of the party.

### Adhir responsible for 'failed' Cong-TMC talks: Abhishek



Bengal," Abhishek Banerjee told newspersons, Monday.

He also accused the Congress leadership in general for not showing any interest about initiating seat-sharing talks with the Trinamool Congress in West Bengal.

"People will realise who is actually responsible for this. Mamata Banerjee has time and again insisted on concluding the dialogue process for seat-

### d' Indigenous communities 'target' of conversion Assam CM SAYS IT IS ESSENTIAL TO PRESERVE AGE-OLD BELIEF SYSTEMS AS THESE ARE INTEGRAL TO THE COUNTRY'S CULTURAL LANDSCAPE

### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

**Dibrugarh (Assam), Jan 30:** Indigenous communities of India have often become 'target' of conversion attempts by mainstream religions, with individuals enticed through 'temptation of material benefit', Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma has claimed.



an adverse impact on culture and practises, he added. Sarma said it is the duty of the younger generations to abide by the indigenous faiths and practises as it is essential to preserve ancient wisdom passed

down through generations. He recalled the contributions of Birsa Munda in this regard and also how Mahatma Gandhi had strongly opposed mass conversions, particularly those influenced by 'external factors'. In order to preserve the indigenous faiths, the Assam government has created the Indigenous and Tribal Faith and Culture department, which is working round-the-clock towards this end, Sarma said. "We are offering budgetary support to indigenous communities, trying to see external factors which influence conversion are minimised and promoting and creating respect for indigenous faith, religion and culture," Sarma added. Stressing that majority community has more responsibility in preserving indigenous faith and culture, the CM added, "If they try to eliminate the indigenous faiths, it will be the saddest day for the world.'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA Guwahati, Jan 30: Assam is among the top five states in the country in the progress of im-

among the top five states in the country in the progress of implementing the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, Governor Gulab Chand Kataria said Tuesday.

Speaking to reporters after a review meeting of NEP implementation in higher education institutions, he said some challenges were still there in enforcing it completely and work was on to overcome those. "Assam is among the top five states so far as progress in implementing the policy is concerned. We have invited the vice-chancellors to ask them about the problems being faced in enforcing the NEP," he said.

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE

Kolkata, Jan 30: Trinamool Congress national general secretary and Lok Sabha MP Abhishek Banerjee has held West Bengal Congress chief and five-time MP Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury for the failed alliance talks between the Congress and the Trinamool Congress in the state with regard to the upcoming Lok Sabha elections.

"There is a limit to anyone's patience. Mamata Banerjee is constantly steering movements against the BJP. She has always been vocal against the Centre neglecting the people of West Bengal. But here she is being targeted by Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury. I want to ask him, how many times has he been vocal about Central negligence towards the people of West sharing by December 31 last year. But no one initiated this discussion. The Opposition INDIA bloc is actually an alliance of the people. People will now decide whom to vote for," he said.

Banerjee also made a statement for the first time since the incident on the attack on ED and CAPF officials at Sandeshkhali in North 24 Parganas district January 5.

According to him, what had happened at Sandeshkhali was unfortunate and should not have happened. "I am not supporting anybody.

The ED officials can go anywhere and conduct search operations at anyone's place. But I want to ask just one question to the ED officials. They were there for three hours. The media came to know about that, but the local police did not," Banerjee said.

He urged younger generations to keep alive the indigenous faiths and religions, while also outlining the measures taken by his government in this regard.

Sarma was speaking at the inaugural session of the 8th International Conference and Gathering of Elders here, which will continue till February 1.

It has been organised by the International Centre for Cultural Studies (ICCS), a non-profit sociocultural forum for spiritual masters of ancient traditions and cultures of the world. Emphasising the importance

of indigenous faiths and culture globally as well as in India and Assam, which are home to several tribes and communities, Sarma said it is essential to preserve these age-old belief systems as these are integral to the country's cultural landscape.

"Unfortunately, indigenous communities in India often become the target of conversion efforts by mainstream religions. Missionary activities carried out by various religious groups can result in a decline of population who practise indigenous faith," the CM maintained.

He claimed that the "temptation of material benefit, education and healthcare benefits provided by missionary organisations influence indiIn order to preserve the indigenous faiths, the Assam government has created the Indigenous and Tribal Faith and Culture department

viduals to convert."

This leads to the gradual erosion of indigenous religious practises and decline in population following these faiths has Kataria said this was the third review meeting, and experts have been invited to guide the government.

"Some challenges are there, especially low enrolment rates," the Governor said, adding that the reasons are being looked into.

Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma raised concerns over the 'stagnant' gross enrolment ratio (GER) in higher education in the last 10 years as the recent All India Survey on Higher Education has revealed.

The GER is stuck in the 17-18 per cent range despite massive investments in the higher education system in the last decade, he said, according to a statement issued by the Chief Minister's Office (CMO).

Sarma indicated exploring the possibility of introducing a new system of scholarship for higher education.

The CM urged the officials and heads of higher education institutions to work on a uniform academic calendar and root out ills like nepotism and favouritism, the statement added.

Education Minister Ranoj Pegu told reporters after the meeting, "There are various milestones under NEP to be achieved till 2035. Periodic reviews are done to assess the progress and this was one such meeting."

Along with state and central government stakeholders, authorities of private universities attended the review meeting, he added.

### PADMA SHRI TO SARBESWAR BASUMATARY

## A DAILY WAGER TURNED FARMER'S JOURNEY TO FAME

BASUMATARY ALONG WITH TWO OTHERS - THE FIRST INDIAN WOMAN MAHOUT PARBATI BARUA IN THE SOCIAL WORK CATEGORY, AND FOLK-ARTISTE DRONA BHUYAN IN THE ART CATEGORY – WERE SELECTED FOR PADMA SHRI AWARDS FROM ASSAM THIS YEAR

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chirang (Assam), Jan 30: From a daily wage labourer to winning Padma Shri, the country's fourth highest civilian award, Assam's 61-year-old tribal farmer Sarbeswar Basumatary's journey to fame was fraught with many trials and tribulations along the way.

Basumatary, a resident of the remote Panbari village of Chirang district, has emerged as a model for all in mixed integrated farming.

Integrated farming means all - types of agriculture - fruits and vegetable farming, poultry farming, rice-fish farming and mixed

farming in one farm.

Belonging to the Bodo community, Basumatary has earned the sobriquet 'Chirang Ka Krishi Chiraag' (the lamp of Chirang's farms).

"As a member of a family belonging to the below poverty line, I studied only till the primary level and this lack of formal higher education posed many hurdles during my journey in the field of agriculture," Basumatary told PTI.

During that period, he was faced with acute financial insecurity coupled with the problems of insurgency in the Bodoland region.

"The initial hurdles to be



crossed included adequate finances for investment into agriculture, lack of proper facilities, and lack of knowledge of scientific methods. Chirang was a backward area," Basumatary said.

With willpower, focus, and hard work, he overcame those challenges.

Continued support and cooperation of officials at the district and state levels helped him in his agricultural work, the farmer said.

"Since 1995, I encouraged the unemployed youth to get involved in agriculture. I tried to lead by example in order to increase their interest," he said.

Basumatary said that the agricultural products from his fields are sold locally and also in the markets of Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Meghalaya, Manipur and various remote areas of the North East.

"Winning this award is a huge honour for me. This is still a dream for me. Now I have a



strong desire to inspire the young

generation to get associated with

agriculture, nursery or the hor-

Basumatary said success is

He was also awarded the

Basumatary along with two

others - the first Indian woman

mahout Parbati Barua in the so-

cial work category, and folk-

artiste Drona Bhuyan in the art

category – were selected for

Padma Shri awards from the

Assam government's third high-

est civilian award 'Assam Gaurav'

for the year 2022-23.

state this year.

inevitable if people stick to a

work with focus and determi-

ticulture sector," he said.

nation.



# PHOTO POST

AP

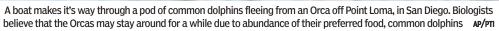


A group of Joaldunak called Zanpantzar, take part in the carnival between the Pyrenees villages of Ituren and Zubieta, northern Spain



President Droupadi Murmu pays homage to Mahatma Gandhi on Martyrs' Day, observed to mark the death anniversary of the father of the nation, at Rajghat in New Delhi







The Grenadier Guards of the Life Guards at the Royal Palace in Stockholm, Sweden. France's President Emmanuel Macron started a two-day state visit in Stockholm during which he will meet Swedish Prime Minister, Ulf Kristersson, and the country's monarch, King Carl XVI Gustaf



PTI

PTI

AP

**P8** 

A ' Theyyam' artiste hoists 'Thirumudi' (Royal crown) of Muchilot Bhagavathi during the 'Perumkaliyattam' festival at Muchilottu Bhagavathi Temple at Vengara in Kannur, Kerala

Artistes perform during the presentation of the best tableau and contingent award in the Republic Day parade 2024, in New Delhi



A reveller teases a child during a traditional carnival celebrating the departing winter and REUTERS forthcoming spring in the village of Hamry near the east Bohemian town of Hlinsko, Czech Republic



Skaters play hockey, at an Ice-Skating Rink in Shimla, Himachal Pradesh











Sreenivasan, a

secretary, was

lawyer and the BJP

**OBC** Morcha state

brutally attacked

and killed in his

home on December

19, 2021, in front of

activists affiliated

with PFI and Social

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Alappuzha (Ker), Jan

30: A Kerala court

Tuesday sentenced to

death 15 people associ-

ated with the now-banned

outfit Popular Front of

India (PFI) in connec-

tion with the murder of

BJP OBC wing leader

Ranjith Sreenivasan in

this district in 2021, the

special prosecutor of the

The sentence was pro-

nounced by Mavelikkara

Additional Sessions

Judge -I V G Sreedevi.

There was "absolute jus-

tification" in giving cap-

case said here.

Democratic Party

of India (SDPI)

his family, by

The BSF is torturing people. It is trying to issue separate identity cards to people living in border areas. Never accept these cards MAMATA BANERJEE BENGAL CM

### **MANDYA FLAG ROW: PANCHAYAT OFFICIAL SUSPENDED**

A panchayat official has been suspended in connection with the flag controversy in a Mandya village, even as Chief Minister Siddaramaiah blamed "Godse's descendants" for disturbing peace in the state

murder and the prepa-

rations might have

started months ago. "So,

I am of the view that the





India's greater capability, our own interest and our reputation today warrant that we actually help out in difficult situations

S JAISHANKAR EAM OF INDIA

Till the development of villages, poor people, labourers and farmers does not take place, the country will not

progress. There is a necessity to develop smart cities with smart villages for making India self-reliant India and roads play an important role in it NITIN GADKARI UNION MINISTER

Modi wins another election, there will be dictatorship in the country. The BJP will rule India like Putin in Russia

CONGRESS PRESIDENT

### SHORT TAKES

### **Teacher shoots 2** colleagues dead

Godda (Jharkhand): A teacher allegedly shot dead two colleagues at a government school in Jharkhand's Godda district over a "love affair", before turning the gun on himself and suffering serious injuries, police said Tuesday. The incident took place at Chatra Upgraded School in Poraiyahat area, around 300 km from Ranchi, during school hours around 11 am, a senior police officer said. Godda Superintendent of Police Nathu Singh Meena told PTI, "The bodies of two teachers, including a woman, were found lying in a pool of blood in a room at the school, while the accused teacher was also found seriously injured." As students and teachers of the school heard the gunshots, they rushed to the room but found it was locked from inside, following which they informed the police, the SP said.

### CHANDIGARH MAYORAL POLLS

AAP moves HC, seeks fresh polls

### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Chandigarh, Jan 30: The Aam Aadmi Party Tuesday moved the Punjab and Haryana High Court, seeking setting aside the mayoral poll results and demanding fresh elections under the supervision of a retired HC judge. The development came hours

after the BJP swept Chandigarh mayoral polls, retaining all the three posts, in a setback to the Congress-AAP alliance which has alleged tampering with ballot papers by the presiding officer. The petition was filed by AAP

councillor Kuldeep Kumar, who was the candidate for the mayor post, according to party sources.

The petitioner sought setting aside the process of the election of mayor of the Chandigarh Municipal Corporation, alleging "complete fraud and forgery", the sources said.

Councillors from the two INDIA bloc parties created a ruckus in the Chandigarh Municipal Corporation House as the result for the mayor's post was declared, and boycotted the next phase elections to the posts of senior deputy mayor and deputy mayor.

BJP candidate Manoj Sonkar ital punishment to all defeated the AAP's Kuldeep the accused persons in Kumar for the mayor's post, this case. the court said. polling 16 votes against the 12 "It is true that there are won by his rival. Eight votes no records to show that were declared invalid. the accused persons were



convicted earlier. The most important aspect is that the heinous crime was committed in the comfort zone ie., in the house of the victim. in the presence of his mother, wife and minor child ... All showing the brutality of the crime," it said.

According to special prosecutor Prathap G Padickal, although 14 out of the total of 15 persons convicted in the case were produced before the court Tuesday, the judge orally stated that the sentence would also apply to the convict who was not produced today. When the remaining convict, who is currently hospitalised due to an illness, is produced in court, the sentence against him will be pronounced, he said. The convict in the

case are Naisam, Ajmal, Anoop, Muhammed Aslam, Abdul Kalam, Abdul Kalam.

Sarafudheen, Manshad, Jaseeb Raja, Navas, Sameer, Naseer, Sakeer Hussain, Shaji and Shernas Asharaf. In the 282-page verdict, the court said, "an overall evaluation of the facts and circumstances of this case, which is a case with direct evidence with three occurrence witnesses and the recoveries effected proved that the weapons as well as vehicles use contain blood, and DNA profiling proved that those blood stains are of the victim advocate." "So, there is

imposing capital pun-

ishment for all the ac-

cused persons in this

cused is hospitalised,

he was not heard on the

question of sentence.

Hence, his case is split

The court observed

that it was a planned

up", it further said.

4 Last date for Bid Clarification

5 Bid Submission End Date

"Since the 10th ac-

case," the court said.

absolute justification for

defenseless victim had never provoked the accused and the commission of offence was a premeditated one", it said. The court said the only mitigating circumstance. the age of the accused. would not be balanced with the aggravating circumstances already pointed out.

**15 PFI workers get death penalty** Navy rescues 2 hijacked vessels

### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 30: The Indian Navy rescued an Iranianflagged fishing vessel with 19 Pakistani crew members and a Sri Lankan trawler in two swift operations after armed pirates hijacked the boats in the Arabian Sea amid deteriorating security situation arising out of Iran-backed Houthi rebels targeting various cargo ships in the region.

Indian warship INS Somalia rescued fishing vessel (FV) Al Naeemi from 11 Somali pirates off the east coast of Somalia Monday, in the second such rescue of an Iranian-flagged vessel in the troubled region, officials said.

In total, the Indian Navy rescued three hijacked vessels in the Arabian Sea since January 28.

"Indian naval ship Sumitra, having thwarted the piracy attempt on FV Iman, has carried out vet another successful antipiracy operation off the east coast of Somalia, rescuing fishing vessel Al Naeemi and her 19 Pakistani crew from 11 Somali pirates," Navy spokesperson Commander Vivek Madhwal said.

The warship had responded to a distress call from FV Iman January 28 and rescued the vessel and its 17 Iranian crew members from armed pirates.

In another mission Monday, the Indian Navy along with naval forces of Sri Lanka and Seychelles, rescued a fishing vessel after it was hijacked in the sea lanes east of Mogadishu. The Sri Lankan-flagged fishing trawler Lorenzo Putha was hijacked by three pirates January 27, Madhwal said.

#### **GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA** OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS DIVISION, BHANJANAGAR e-mail: eerwbnjr@gmail.com "e" Procurement Notice for Road Works Identification No. Online Tender / 27/ RWDBNJ/ 2023-2024 No.498 Date: 25.01.2024 No.O-2309:- 1. Name of the work: Road works, 2. Total Number of works; 6 Nos. 3. Estimated cost; 6.42 lakh to 25.20 lakh. 4. Class of contractor: B, C and D Class of Contractor. 5. Period of completion: (Two) 2 calendar months 6. Other details Procurement Officer Bid Identification No. Availability of tender online for bidding

		From	То					
Superintending Engineer,	Online Tender / 27 / RWDBNJ	31.01.2024 to at	08.02.2024 upto 3.00					
R.W. Division, Bhanjanagar	/ 2023-2024	10.00 A.M.	P.M.					
Further details can be seen from the website: www.tendersodisha.gov.in								
Sd./- Superintending Engineer, R.W. Division, Bhanjanagar								
OIPR-25174/11/0055/2324								

### **Budget Session begins today**

### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, Jan 30: The Budget Session of Parliament, the last of the present Lok Sabha, begins Wednesday with an address by President Droupadi Murmu to a joint sitting, as the government sought cooperation of Opposition parties to ensure the proceedings run smoothly.

All eyes will be on the President's address and the interim budget Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman presents February 1, as they are likely to offer a glimpse into the ruling BJP's agenda for the Lok Sabha polls, expected in April-May.

Following the customary all-party meeting on the eve the a session.

17th Lok Sabha's brief session, set to conclude February 9, was the President's Address, the presentation of the Interim Budget and the debate on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address with a reply by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Congress leader K Suresh said the party would raise the issue of unemployment, high inflation, agrarian distress. and the situation in ethnic violence-hit Manipur during the session.

Trinamool Congress leader Sudip Bandyopadhyay said the finance minister should include the pending dues to West Bengal on account of various central schemes in the Interim Budget.

"It is unfortunate that a chief minister has to sit on a dharna to demand timely



the manufacturers/supplier/authorized distributors/dealers for fi of Rate Contract for vaious type of materials to Angul Forest Di on Annual Rate Contract Basis, related to supply Single Barrel Tranquilizer Gun. Thermal monocular and VHF Base set with talkie under CAMPA and other Schemes

1 Tender Publishing Date 30.01.2024, 10:00AM 2 Bid Document Download Start Date 30.01.2024, 10:00AM Bid Submission Start Date 30.01.2024, 10:00AM

08.02.2024, 1:00 PM

08.02.2024, 05:00 PM

	No.O-2305:- Government of Odisha
	"e" procurement Notice
CER	e-mail ID-rw_sambalpur@yahoo.co.in, Phone No. 0663-2401850
	Bid Identification No. TENDER ONLINE SBPR-18 OF 2023-24
	No.680 Dated 25.1.24
	1 Name of the work : Road & building works as per DTCN available in the website www.
4237	available in the website www. tendersodisha.gov.in
ate	2 Total No. of work : 24 (Twenty four) Nos.
f	3 Estimated cost : Varies from Rs.1.26 lakhs to 37.21 lakh
	4 Period of completion : 01 (One) to 06 (Six) calendar months 5 Period and time of : 30.01.24 at 11.00 A.M. to 05.02.2024 upto
' I	5 Period and time of : 30.01.24 at 11.00 A.M. to 05.02.2024 upto availability of bid document 5.00 P.M.
	in the portal for bidding
24	6 Date and time of opening : 06.02.2024 at 11.00 A.M.
s from	of tender Name and address of the : S.E.R.W. Divn. Sambalpur
xation vision	officer inviting bid
Riffled	(1) Other details can be seen from detailed notice inviting tenders,
Valkie	available in website <u>www.tendersodisha.gov.in</u> .
No	(2) Corrigendum if any shall only be published in the website: www.
	tenderodisha.gov.in
	Sd./- Superintending Engineer, Rural Works Division, Sambalpur
	OIPR-25076/11/0026/2324
	OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
	MINOR IRRIGATION DIVISION, JASHIPUR
www.	
2324	BID IDENTIFICATION No.: 07 MID JSP/2023-24
	1. Name of the Inviting Officer:- Superintending Engineer, Minor Irrigation Division,
	Jashipur     Aname of the Work     Section of Check Dam & Improvement
	2. Name of the Work :- Construction of Check Dam & Improvement to MIP of Mayurbhanj District
	3. No. of Works :- 05 (Five) Nos.
ENT	4. Tender Amount Varies From :- 19.50 lakh to 84.29 lakh
	5. Date and Time of Availability of :- 10.00 hrs Dt.02.02.2024 to 17.00 hrs
	BID Document in the Portal for online Bidding from Dt.08.02.2024
	6. Last Date and Time of receipt :- 17.00 hrs Dt.08.02.2024
	of Bids in the Portal
ment	7. Last Date and Time for :- 17.00hrs Dt.08.02.2024
P for	clarification upto           8. Date of opening of Bid         :- 11.00hrs onwards Dt.09.02.2024
2023-	The detail tender call notice can also be seen in the DOWR website:
SYS,	http://dowrorissa.gov.in
	Name & Address of the OIT: Superintending Engineer, M.I. Division, Jashipur, At/
e	PO- Khairi, Dist:- Mayurbhanj, PIN-757091, E-mail: eemijashipur@yahoo.com Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement market place:
	http://tenderorissa.gov.in.
2024	Subsequent corrigendum/addendum if required shall be available in the above
ioned	portal.
	<ul> <li>The tender inviting authority reserves the right to reject/cancel any or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof.</li> </ul>
	Sd./- Superintending Engineer,
RfP	OIPR-32282/11/0012/2324 M.I. Division, Jashipur
	OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER,
e: 29	MINOR IRRIGATION DIVISION, DHENKANAL
3. 29	No.217/ Dt.25.01.2024
	e-Procurement Notice
e: 02	Bid Identification No.DMID/12/2023-24
5. 02	e-mail ID:eemidkl@yahoo.co.in
Time:	No.A-1316:The Superintending Engineer, Minor Irrigation Division,
inne.	Dhenkanal on behalf of the Governor of Odisha invites online
etary	percentage rate tender through "e" procurement for the works as detailed
/2324	in the Annexure to this bid notice.           Name of the Work:         Civil Works in Different Block of Dhenkanal
2324	Name of the Work: Civil Works in Different Block of Dhenkanal District for the year 2023-24 under Improvement
	to Check Dam & ERM Scheme.
	No. of Works: 45 (Forty five) Only
	Estimated Cost: Varies from 04.33 lakh to 25.00 lakh (Approximately) Cost of Tender Paper: 2000/- to 6000/-
	Period of Completion: 03 (Three) Calendar months
	Availability of bid documents for From dt.31.01.2024, 10.00 AM to dt.09.02.2024,
	sale and receipt through on-line upto 5.00 P.M.
	Last date / time of receipt of 09.02.2024 (5.00 PM) bids in the portal
	bido in dio porta
	Date of Technical bid opening On dt.12.02.2024 at 11.00 A.M. in the Office of
Approx	through online the S.E, M.I. Division, Dhenkanal.
	through online the S.E, M.I. Division, Dhenkanal. Mode of payment of Bid Cost Online
MD @	through online         the S.E, M.I. Division, Dhenkanal.           Mode of payment of Bid Cost         Online           Digital Signature Certificate of         The Bidder must possess compatible Digital
MD @	through online the S.E, M.I. Division, Dhenkanal. Mode of payment of Bid Cost Online
MD @	through online         the S.E, M.I. Division, Dhenkanal.           Mode of payment of Bid Cost         Online           Digital Signature Certificate of Bidder:         The Bidder must possess compatible Digital Signature Certificate (DSC).

# If Narendra

MALLIKARJUN KHARGE



### **ED** questions **Tejashwi Yadav**

.....

Patna: Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader Tejashwi Yadav is being questioned by ED sleuths here in connection with the agency's money laundering probe into the alleged land-for-jobs scam, officials said. The former Bihar deputy chief minister reached the FD office around 11.35 am. they said. His father and RID supremo Lalu Prasad was questioned by the probe agency's officials for over nine hours Monday regarding the same case. The central probe agency had January 19 issued fresh summons for questioning Prasad and Yaday.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi said the government sought the cooperation of all the parties for the short session, even as the main opposition Congress raised issues like the alleged attack on Rahul Gandhi-led Bharat Jodo Yatra in Assam, the alleged "misuse" of probe agencies and the Manipur situation. Joshi said the main agenda of the

allocation of central dues to the state, he said.

Samajwadi Party leader S T Hassan demanded steps to strengthen the Pla of Worship Act that freezes the status religious places of worship as they isted August 15, 1947, and prohibits th conversion while ensuring the main nance of their religious character.

### Jaswant Singh's daughter-in-law killed in car cr

Alwar: Congress leader Manvendra Singh's wife was killed and the former MP and his so injured when their SUV met with an accident in Alwar on the Delhi-Mumbai Expressway, officials said. Manyendra Singh, who is son of the late BJP stalwart and former Union mil Jaswant Singh, and his family were on their way to Jaipur from Delhi when the accident happened. Police said the driver, Narendra, apparently lost control of the car which skidd the road and hit a cemented parapet on the vacant space between two elevated roads ne Naugava. Alwar Additional Superintendent of Police Tejpal Singh said the three were trave in the SUV. After the accident, they were rushed to a private hospital along with their drive Vikrant Solanki of the hospital said that Chitra Singh, aged around 55, died during treatme while Manvendra Singh (59), his son Hamir Singh (25) and their driver were injured.

## to question Soren today

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Ranchi/New Delhi, Jan **30:** Ending suspense over whereabouts, his Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren Tuesday reached his official residence in Ranchi and chaired meetings of his alliance MLAs, ahead of his scheduled questioning by the ED in a money laundering case. A day after the ED team

visited the JMM executive president's Delhi home with the intent to question him and agency officials claimed that he was "untraceable" sources close to Soren said that the 48-year-old Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) leader came by road from Delhi, undertaking a more than 1250 km iourney

Enforcement The Directorate will question Soren Wednesday in Ranchi



sources have said that they

have seized ₹36 lakh, a BMW

SUV and some "incrimi-

his house in the national

he told reporters in Ranchi

after paying tributes to

Mahatma Gandhi on his

death anniversary. He was

'I reside in your hearts,"

capital Monday.

in a money laundering case replying to a query reprobe linked to an alleged garding his absence land scam. The official

'We all are committed to following the footsteps and ideologies of the Father of the Nation. We are proud nating" documents during that such people were born among us and guided us,' the search operations at he added.

> Soren held two rounds of meetings of alliance legislators at the CM House to discuss the present political situation in the state. In photographs and videos

shared by Soren's office X, MLAs and minist were seen greeting the Ch Minister

before taking part in meeting.

Soren's wife Kalpa Soren, who is not a leg lator, was also present the meeting.

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bital along with their driver. Dr	SI.		Data		, Dist:- May
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Iriver were injured.	1. PT1-SYS-SEB-EVE	NTS-0013-2023/3370	25.01.2024	<ul> <li>Subsequence</li> </ul>	uent corrige
	The details of the documents	are available at the belo	ow mentioned	portal.	-
	website.				der inviting
TODAU	Website: https://sports.odis	ha.gov.in/		without	assigning a
today	Interested firms/parties/ager	ncies are advised to si	tudy the RfP	OIPR-3228	2/11/0012/2
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•	Important Dates and Inform	nation:		OFF	CE OF
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MLAs and ministers	Last date and time for s	ending pre-bid queries	s - Date: 29		NOR IR
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inister	Pre-Bid Meeting - Date: 29	January 2024; Time: 04	.00 P.M.		D:d
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eeting.	February 2024, Time: 03.00			No A-13	16:The S
Soren's wife Kalpana	Opening of the Technical	Bid - Date: 02 February	2024; Time:	1993 B. 1997 B. 1997	al on be
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	Rs.44.12 lakhs. 4. Class of contra			Tunougn of	nline ayment of E
	er. 6. Period of completion: 1 (One				nature Cert

estimated cost Rs.13.73 lakhs to Rs.44.12 lakhs. 4. Class of contractor: 'D' & 'C' & 'C' & 'B', 5. EMD: EMD @							Mode of payment of Bid Cost	Online
1% of estimated cost	put to tender.	<ol><li>Period of com</li></ol>	pletion: 1 (One)	calendar mont	h. 7. Other details:		Digital Signature Certificate of	The Bidder must possess compati
Procurement Officer	Bid	Availability of t	ender online for	Last date	Date & time of opening of		Bidder:	Signature Certificate (DSC).
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Irrigation

Superintending Engineer, Minor Irrigat Division, Dhenkanal, At / P.O / District - Dhen-

kanal. Ph.No / Fax No.-06762-224461 , Email

Sd./- Superintending Engineer M.I. Division, Dhenkanal



## international



A special case are Africans: for them homosexuality is something bad from a cultural point of view, they don't tolerate it POPE FRANCIS | CATHOLIC CHURCH LEADER

### **HK NATIONAL SECURITY LAW**

Hong Kong begun public consultation Tuesday on enacting its own national security law, beginning a process to implement legislation that for years was widely opposed by residents who feared the erosion of their civil liberties

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Washington, Jan 30: A day

after three US troops were killed

in a drone strike in Jordan, the White House Monday said it

does not want to seek another

war or escalate the tension, but

would absolutely do what is re-

quired to protect itself in the

John Kirby, Coordinator for

Strategic Communications at

the National Security Council in

the White House, told reporters

at a news conference here that

the attack also sent more than 30

US soldiers to hospital, some

gathers more information about

the attack, that mission must

separate and distinct .. Indeed

it has been longstanding and

unrelated to our efforts to sup-

port Israel and to prevent a

wider conflict in the region,'

Kirby said.

nation's waters

The magistrate in

'The counter-ISIS mission is

and will continue." he said.

with serious injuries.



uote

I humbly regret, and made a determination to have policy groups make a complete break from money and personnel affairs FUMIO KISHIDA PM, JAPAN

The threat posed by China offers an opportunity for the US and India to make strong agreements, including a genuine Free Trade Agreement to ensure that

the two countries will look at each other as first partners DARRELL ISSA | LAWMAKER, US

India and Singapore are strategic partners, and share warm and friendly historical ties. We have had an intense year of political exchanges in our economic, financial and trade ties which continue to grow from strength to strength SHILPAK AMBULE INDIAN ENVOY TO SINGAPORE

### SHORT TAKES

### Europe record heat

Geneva: The UN's weather agency Tuesday confirmed a reading of 48.8 degrees Celsius (119.8 degrees Fahrenheit) in Sicily two years ago as the hottest temperature ever recorded in Europe. The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) says the Sicilian scorcher was picked up August 11, 2021, at a time when temperatures were soaring across much of Europe - renewing concerns about climate change caused by human activity. The figure blew past the previous European record of 48 C that was recorded in the Greek cities of Athens and Elefsina in July 1977.

### NK missile mania

Seoul: South Korea's military detected North Korea firing multiple cruise missiles into the sea off its western coast Tuesday in its third round of

# **NO GAZA PULLOUT: ISRAEL PM**

NETANYAHU RULES OUT GAZA PULLOUT OR RELEASE OF THOUSANDS OF MILITANTS – HAMAS **DEMANDS IN TRUCE TALKS** The population of Gaza AGENCIES

Jerusalem, Jan 30: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Tuesday that there will be no military withdrawal from Gaza or the release of thousands of jailed militants, two key demands of Hamas in ongoing indirect

cease-fire talks. During an event in the occupied West Bank, he once again vowed that the war will not end without "absolute victory" over Hamas

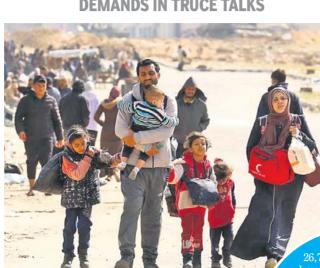
'We will not end this war without achieving all of our goals,' he said. "We will not pull out the Israeli military from the Gaza Strip and we will not release thousands of terrorists.

Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh said the group had received a ceasefire proposal put forward after talks in Paris. He said he would study the plan and visit Cairo for discussions on it.

The priority for the Palestinian militant group was to end the Israeli offensive and a full pullout of Israeli forces from Gaza, he said. Haniyeh gave no details of the

ceasefire proposal but it followed talks in Paris involving CIA Director William Burns, Qatar's prime minister, the chief of Israel's Mossad intelligence service and the head of Egyptian in-

telligence. While the West Bank - an area that Palestinians envisage as part of a hoped-for independent state - had seen increased violence even before the outbreak of the Gaza war in October. the hospital raid could fuel a



after being

wounded in

his back this

month. and

was in the hos-

sources said.

sources said.

pital for treat-

ment. His brother

Mohammad was stay-

ing there to help him, and

the third man was a friend, the

The Israeli undercover squad

broke into the hospital, headed

to the third floor and killed them

using silenced pistols, hospital

Palestinian Health Minister

Mai Alkaila called the incident

a war crime and urged the United

Nations and international rights

groups to put an end to such ac-

tions. Israel has previously de-

The Israeli military identi

fied one of the slain men as

nied committing war crimes.

more intense phase of unrest. CCTV footage appeared to

show about a dozen troops, including three in women's garb and two dressed as Palestinian medical staff, pacing through a corridor in Ibn Sina hospital in the city of Jenin with rifles. Hamas said one of the dead

was a member of the militant Islamist group. The allied faction Islamic Jihad said the other two killed were brothers who belonged to it. Ibn Sina said one of the brothers had been receiving treatment for an injury

that paralysed his legs. The Israeli military said one of those killed had a pistol, and that the incident showed militants were using civilian areas

and hospitals as shelters and "human shields". Hamas has previously denied such allegations. Palestinian sources said the

three were not engaged in any fighting. They said one, Basel

26,751 Palestinians have been killed and Al-Ghazzawi,

Gaza, the Gaza health ministry said. Some 114 Palestinians were killed and 249 injured in the past 24 hours, it said.

was on the verge of

famine. It's getting

Mohammed Jalamneh, 27, from

Jenin, who it said had contacts

with Hamas headquarters abroad

and was planning an attack in-

spired by the Hamas rampage in

Israel unleashed its assault

on Gaza in response to that

Israelis were killed

than

and 253 taken

hostage. More

hostages re-

main captive

in Gaza.

Since

then, 26,751

Palestinians

100

region

southern Israel October 7.

**GAZA DEATH TOLL RISES** 

worse by the day

CHRISTIAN LINDMEIER

SPOKESPERSON, WHO

Israel says its forces have killed around 9,000 Palestinian combatants in Gaza, and that 221 of its soldiers have been killed in the fighting.

The war has created a humanitarian crisis, with wide areas of Gaza flattened, hundreds of thousands of people left destitute, and supplies of food. water and medicines almost exhausted.

### **DRONE STRIKE IN JORDAN** US doesn't seek another war: WH

The President's been crystal clear. We will respond decisively to

any aggression. We will hold responsible the people who attacked our troops. We'll do so at a time and a place of our choosing

ANTONY BLINKEN US SECRETARY OF STATE

#### We do not seek to escalate. But we will absolutely do what is required to protect ourselves, to continue that mission, and to respond appropriately to these

attacks," he asserted. President Joe Biden, he said, has met with his national security team twice and is weighing various options before him.

"He's weighing the options before him. As he said yesterday, we will respond. We'll do that on our schedule, in our own time. And we'll do it in a manner of the President's choosing as Commander-in-Chief," Kirby said.

"We'll also do it fully cognizant "These troops were conductof the fact that these groups, ing a vital mission in the region, backed by Tehran, have just aimed at helping US work with taken the lives of American partners to counter ISIS. And troops," he added. even as the Defense Department At a separate press confer-

ence with NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said his country would respond to the attack on its soldiers in Jordan. US troops long have used Jordan, a kingdom bordering Iraq, Israel, the Palestinian territory of the West Bank. Saudi Arabia and Svria. as a basing point.

We do not seek another war.

IDBITS

### Nationalist candidate opts out of **Russian Prez race, endorses Putin**



Russians to unite around Putin, whose victory in the election is assumed as a foregone conclusion by supporters and opponents alike.

Baburin is a longtime, if marginal, fixture of Russian nationalist politics, having served as a lawmaker until 2007 and taken part in armed opposition to President Boris Yeltsin during civil unrest in 1993.

Suspended prison terms for 10 Indian fishermen in Sri Lanka



Pak to issue new notes to combat counterfeit cash



KARACHI: Pakistan's central bank has announced that it wil introduce new currency notes with enhanced security fea tures to deal with the menace of counterfeit currencies in the cash-strapped country. The Governor of the State Bank of Pakistan Jameel Ahmed told the media here that the currency notes will be incorporated with advanced international security features, including distinct security numbers and design to modernise the Pakistani currency. Ahmed also said the transition would be gradual so that Pakistan does not face disruption and public panic problems as has been witnessed in some other countries in the past. However, some financial experts wonder whether the introduction of new currency notes could also include demonetisation of the ₹5,000 or higher denomination notes to combat the counterfeit and black money market.

attack in which 1.200 65,636 wounded in Israeli was wheelstrikes on Gaza chair-bound

The World Health Organization said the population of Gaza was on the verge of famine Some 114 Palestinians were killed and 249 injured in the past 24

have been killed and 65,636 wounded hours by Israeli actions in

tests of such weapons this month. The launches came amid heightened tensions in the region, where the pace of both North Korea's weapons demonstrations and the United States' combined military exercises with allies South Korea and Japan have intensified in a tit-for-tat. South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said the South Korean and US militaries were analyzing the launches.

REUTERS

Moscow, Jan 30: Sergei Baburin, a Russian nationalist politician who had announced his candidacy in presidential elections scheduled for March 15-17, said Tuesday that he was pulling out of the race and endorsing the incumbent, Vladimir Putin.

Baburin, leader of the Russian All-People's Union party, an-

nounced his change of heart shortly after submitting documents and signatures to the central electoral commission in support of his bid.

In video published by online news outlet SOTA. Baburin said it would be wrong to undermine national unity "at a difficult hour for the motherland", referring to the war in Ukraine. He called on all patriotic

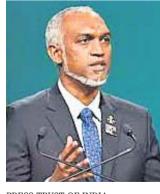
At Russia's last presidential elections in 2018, he came last out of eight candidates, taking 0.65% of the vote

Russia's electoral commission has so far registered four candidates, including Putin, for the polls. Several more, including anti-war candidate Boris Nadezhdin, are due to submit documents by Wednesday.



Jaffna peninsula Monday also ordered the owner of the trawler to be present at the court October 24 when the case will be next heard. The trawler has been detained in a case of illegal fishing. The 'two-year prison term suspended for five years' means that the fishermen don't go to jail actually but the sentence is suspended after five years. The fishermen, arrested by the Sri Lanka Navy December 23, have attended the Point Pedro court three times. The fishermen issue is a contentious one in the ties between India and Sri Lanka, with Lankan Navy personnel even firing at Indian fishermen in the Palk Strait and seizing their boats in several alleged incidents of illegally entering Sri Lankan territorial waters.

### Demand for Maldives Prez to apologise for targeting India



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Male, Jan 30: Gasuim Ibrahim, leader of the Jumhooree Party, has urged Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu to formally apologise to India and Prime Minister Narendra Modi and seek "diplomatic reconciliation" to mend bilateral relations.

Gasuim's demand referred to remarks by Muizzu-regarded as pro-China – earlier in the month referring to India as a bully without naming the country.

Amid a diplomatic row with India that erupted after derogatory social media posts by three of his ministers against Prime Minister Modi, President Muizzu on his return home after a fiveday high-profile state visit to China January 13 said, "We may be small but this doesn't give them the license to bully us.'

Incidentally, the demand comes a day after the main opposition Maldivian Democratic Party (MDP), which holds a majority in the Maldivian Parliament, Monday said it plans to submit a motion to impeach Muizzu.

Muizzu, 45, defeated Indiafriendly incumbent Ibrahim Mohamed Solih in the presidential runoff held in September last year

Gasuim, while speaking with media after a meeting of the Jumhooree Party (JP), called on President Muizzu to formally apologise to India and Prime Minister Modi for the recent controversial remarks made during an interview, the Voice Of Maldives portal said.

Expressing concern over the comments. Gasuim urged President Muizzu to seek forgiveness from India for the indirect attacks made in the interview, the digital platform said. Even as the main opposition

announced its plan to impeach Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu, the government has approached the Supreme Court over the recent amendment to Parliament's standing orders which makes the process of impeachment easier.

REUTERS

Paris, Jan 30: French farmers blocked major highways to Paris as they pursue protests over a range of grievances, despite several measures announced by the government.

Here are some of the issues that have prompted the protest movement and what the government could do next.

### WHY ARE FARMERS PROTESTING?

Farmers in France, the EU's biggest agricultural producer, say they are not being paid enough and are choked by excessive regulation on environmental protection.

Some of their concerns, like competition from cheaper imports and environmental rules, are shared by producers in the rest of the EU while other issues such as food price negotiations are more specific to France.

### COSTS

Farmers argue that a push by the government and retailers to bring down food inflation has left many producers unable to cover high costs for energy, fertiliser and transport.

A government plan to phase out a tax break for farmers on diesel fuel, as part of a wider energy transition policy, was also a flashpoint.



#### IMPORTS

Large imports from Ukraine, for which the EU has waived quotas and duties since Russia's invasion, and renewed negotiations to conclude a trade deal between the EU and South American bloc Mercosur, have fanned discontent about unfair competition in sugar, grain and meat.

The imports are resented for pressuring European prices while not meeting environmental standards imposed on EU farmers

### **ENVIRONMENT, RED TAPE**

Farmers take issue both with EU subsidy rules, such as an incoming requirement to leave 4% of farmland fallow, and what they see as France's overcomplicated implementation of EU policy, such as in restoring hedges

Green policies are seen as contradicting goals to become more self-sufficient in production of food and other essential goods in the light of Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Rows over irrigation projects and criticism about animal welfare and pesticides have heightened feelings among an ageing French farmer population as being disregarded by society. WHAT HAS THE GOVERNMENT **DONE SO FAR?** 

The government is under pressure to defuse the crisis ahead of European elections in June and the annual Paris farm show in

late February.

Prime Minister Gabriel Attal announced January 26 the scrapping of diesel tax increases for farmers. He also set out steps to reduce red tape and offered extra aid including for farmers affected by a cattle disease in the south

### WHAT COULD HAPPEN NEXT?

The initial announcements drew mixed reactions and farmers' unions have called for protests to continue.

The government is maintaining a tolerant stance towards the protests, despite some violent incidents. It has ordered police, however, to protect Paris' airports and wholesale food market after calls for them to be targeted.

The government has promised further measures within days.

Further support for wine producers hit by falling consumption is being studied while additional measures for livestock are also expected.

With most agricultural policies and subsidies determined at EU level, Paris is seeking concessions from its partners, such as trying to build support for a waiver on the fallow land requirement, an issue President Emmanuel Macron could push at a leaders' summit Thursday. On trade, another area run at kets, notably in sugar, poultry and eggs. That marks a shift by Paris, previously opposed to moves by eastern EU countries to limit flows of Ukrainian produce. WHERE ELSE IN EUROPE ARE FARM-**ERS PROTESTING?** Traffic around the Belgian capital was also disrupted by angry farmers Monday and about

EU level, Agriculture Minister

Marc Fesneau called for meas-

ures to prevent imports from

Ukraine destabilising EU mar-

a dozen tractors made it through to Brussels' EU area where they honked loudly. Farmers stopped about five

trucks with Spanish vegetables and dumped the produce near the distribution centre of Belgian retailer Colruyt near Brussels, Belgian media reported.

Germany has also faced tensions, with protests erupting after a government decision to phase out a tax break on agricultural diesel as it tried to balance its 2024 budget. Earlier this month Berlin was brought to a near standstill as one of its central avenues filled with trucks and tractors.

Farmers and truck drivers in Romania have also taken action this month with protests against high business costsblocking access to a border crossing with Ukraine.







# business



2023 was another strong year for Porsche India where sales of every model played a significant factor in our encouraging result MANOLITO VUJICIC | BRAND DIRECTOR, PORSCHE INDIA

### **1.800 EV CHARGING STATIONS PAN INDIA**

Toyota remains world's top-selling automaker

THE JAPANESE FIRM KEEPS TOP AUTOMAKER CROWN FOR 4TH YEAR, BEATING VOLKSWAGEN

Servotech Power Systems Ltd (SPSL) Tuesday said it has secured an order worth ₹120 crore from Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) to install 1,800 fast EV charging stations across various locations in India



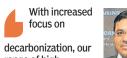


This is the right time to enter the Indian aviation sector as the industry ecosystem is developing. There are a lot of tailwinds in the Indian aviation sector.

We do see a lot of activities and it is just a start

JOSHUA NG

DIRECTOR, ALTON AVIATION CONSULTANCY



range of highperformance conductors, HV and

EHV cables and specialized EPC services for cable transmission, continue to make a significant impact in the energy transition journey

### MANISH AGARWAL

CEO, GLOBAL PRODUCTS & SERVICES BUSINESS



are looking to reduce our net debt to around Rs 6,000 crore by March

ABHISHEK LODHA MD AND CEO, MACROTECH DEVELOPERS

### **Q3 RESULTS**

### NDTV posts loss

Bangalore: New Delhi Television Ltd (NDTV) part of the billionaire Gautam Adaniled Adani Group, reported a third-quarter loss Tuesday, as businesses cut back on advertising spending. Companies diverted advertising spends to the cricket world cup during the quarter, hurting broadcasters that were unaffiliated with the tournament. NDTV's consolidated net loss stood at ₹95.5 million (\$1.2 million) in the three months to December 31 against a profit of ₹25.9 million a year earlier.

### **JSW Paints soars**

Mumbai: JSW Paints, an unlisted entity of diversified conglomerate JSW Group.

### **3 Indian markets in US Notorious Markets List**

### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Washington, Jan 30: Three Indian markets in three cities, including one in New Delhi, and three online markets have figured in the annual notorious market list of the US Trade Representatives released Tuesday, in which China continues on the number one spot.

in Bangalore

The 2023 Notorious Markets List identifies 39 online markets and 33 physical markets that are reported to engage in or facilitate substantial trademark counterfeiting or copyright piracy. The three Indian markets are: Heera Panna in Mumbai, Tank Road in Karol Bagh in New Delhi, and Sadar Patrappa Road Market

Among the online Indian mar-

kets that figure in the list are

IndiaMart, Vegamovies, and

Tank Road is a popular whole-

sale market in Delhi where cus-

tomers can get clothes at rea-

Bangalore is known as a hub of

electronic, hardware and ma-

chine tool goods and is equally

notorious for its duplicate prod-

centre, located near the busy

Haji Ali junction in Mumbai,

has been infamous for selling

rip-offs of top global brands.

Unsurprisingly, it is a favourite

for those looking for big labels

for cheap, making the "first

copies" and "second copies" on

Incidentally, Heera Panna in

Mumbai and Tank Road in Delhi

had also featured in a similar

report for 2021, released in

February 2022, the other two

being Delhi's Palika Bazar and

Kidderpore in Kolkata. The

offer a favourite.

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The Heera Panna shopping

WHMCS Smarters.

able across shops.

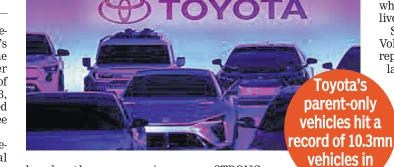
ucts

Tokyo, Jan 30: Toyota Motor retained its crown as the world's top-selling automaker for the fourth consecutive year after posting record annual sales of 11.2 million vehicles in 2023, though its chairman apologised on Tuesday for scandals at three group companies.

REUTERS

The Japanese automaker reported a 7.2% jump in global group sales last year, including those at small-car maker Daihatsu and truck unit Hino Motors.

Those two subsidiaries and affiliate Toyota Industries have



been beset by governance issues involving certification test procedures for cars and engines that could potentially hurt the brand's global reputation for quality and safety.

when the Covid-19 pandemic delivered a blow to the auto sector. Second-ranked German rival Volkswagen Group this month reported a 12% rise in deliveries last year to 9.2 million cars, marking a post-pandemic recovery as supply chain bot-

tlenecks eased. Tuesday's data showed sales of Toyota's parentonly vehicles, which include those of its namesake and Lexus brands, hit a record of 10.3 million vehi-

cles in 2023. Gasoline-electric hybrids made up about a third of those. Battery electric vehicles accounted for

less than 1%

Toyota, however, risks a slowdown in the group's sales momentum after Daihatsu last month suspended shipments of all its cars after a safety scandal investigation found issues involving 64 models, including almost two dozen sold under Toyota's brand.

Daihatsu said Tuesday its global production slumped 25% to 121,000 vehicles in December and its worldwide sales were down about 8% that month. Japan's transport ministry lifted a ban on shipments of 10 Daihatsu-made cars earlier in the day.

## **D-St sheds gains**

Sensex declines over 1% on heavy selling in Reliance, others

### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Mumbai, Jan 30: Benchmark equity indices declined Tuesday, a day after recording sharp gains, with the BSE Sensex falling over 1 per cent due to selling in Reliance Industries, ITC and

Bajaj Finance. The 30-share BSE Sensex fell by 801.67 points or 1.11 per cent to settle at 71,139.90. During the day, it plummeted 865.85 points or 1.20 per cent to 71,075.72.

sonable prices. It is known for the sheer variety of denim avail-The Nifty declined 215.50 points or 0.99 per cent to 21,522.10. Sadar Patrappa Road or the SP Road in the KR Market of

Among the Sensex firms, Bajaj Finance fell by 5.03 per cent after its December quarter earnings failed to cheer investors. Titan, UltraTech Cement, Bajaj Finserv, Reliance Industries, ITC and NTPC were among the other

major laggards. Tata Motors, State Bank of India, Hindustan Unilever, Power Grid, Tech Mahindra and Tata Consultancy Services were the gainers.

"Selling intensified towards the fag end as investors further slashed their positions in key stocks ahead of the Budget while weakness in several Asian indices also contributed to the overall fall. With just one day left for the Budget, investors want to play it safe although there would not be any big-bang announcement by the govern-



### Tata Motors races past Maruti in mcap

ata Motors Tuesday became the country's most valuable auto company by market capitalisation, combining the company's valuation as well as the DVR shares, racing past Maruti Suzuki India. Shares of Tata Motors climbed 2.19 per cent to settle at ₹859.25 apiece on the BSE. During the day it jumped 5.40 per cent to reach its 52-week high of ₹886.30. Tata Motors Ltd - DVR stock gained 1.63 per cent to ₹572.65. However, shares of Maruti dipped 0.36 per cent to ₹9,957.25. The combined market valuation of Tata Motors (Rs 2,85,515.64 crore) and Tata Motors Ltd - DVR (Rs 29,119.42 crore) stood at ₹3,14,635.06 crore. This was ₹1,576.56 crore more than Maruti's ₹3,13,058.50 crore valuation. Tata Motors was the biggest gainer among the Sensex and Nifty firms.

rates, which could unsettle investors further," said Prashanth Tapse, Senior VP (Research), Mehta Equities Ltd

In the broader market, the BSE midcap gauge declined 0.53 per cent while smallcap index climbed 0.18 per cent

#### ties (0.92 per cent) and industrials (0.77 per cent). Realty emerged as the only gainer.

Global oil benchmark Brent crude climbed 0.21 per cent to \$82.57 a barrel Tuesday.

The BSE benchmark

growing economies. India's steel demand is likely to stav strong as the government

India's steel mills have called for government interventions and safeguard measures against surging imports. But, the federal Ministry of Steel has resisted calls for curbs, citing strong local demand.

"Rising imports are a concern and should be tracked closely as dumping of steel in India can hurt the profitability and hence the investment plans of the steel industry," said TV Narendran, chief executive of Tata Steel, India's second-biggest producer.

South Korea was the top exporter of finished steel to India between April and December, shipping 1.77 million metric tonne of the alloy, up 4.4% from the same period a year earlier to

India's finished steel exports were 4.7 million metric tonne between April and December, the lowest in at least six years, reflecting subdued overseas demand. Crude steel output stood at 106.1 million metric tonne, up 13.9% from a year earlier.

NSE Niftv Previous day close: 21.737.60 21.800

0.86 Adani Enterpris -5.21 Bajaj Finance -3.02 UltraTech Cement -2.83 Bajaj Finserv

Steel imports hit 5-yr

Toyota's global

group sales have now topped 10

million vehicles for nine of the

past 10 years, except for 2020

STRONG

SALES

high during April-Dec GAINERS **STEEL CONSUMPTION IN INDIA, THE WORLD'S** 2.12 Tata Motors SECOND-BIGGEST CRUDE STEEL PRODUCER. 0.97 Eicher Motors

2023

REUTERS New Delhi, Jan 30: India's steel imports touched a five-year high

data showed.

in the first nine months of the fiscal year to the end of March, turning the country into a net importer of finished steel, according to provisional government data seen by Reuters Tuesday.

A spurt in economic activity and a revamp of broader infrastructure have turned India into a bright spot for both Indian and global steel makers. Unlike India, steel demand is slowing down in Europe and the United States.

**DEMAND SOARS** 

**JUMPED 14.8% TO A SIX-YEAR HIGH** 

India imported 5.6 million metric tonne of finished steel between April and December, up 26.4% from a year earlier, the hit a four-year high. Steel consumption in India,

That was just above China, the world's top steel producer, whose shipments of finished steel to India reached a six-year\_ high of 1.75 million metric tonne.

Tuesday said its revenues touched ₹1,500 crore in the first nine months of FY24 and is confident of turning profitable in the current fiscal. The company is aiming to close FY24 with a topline of over ₹2,000 crore, as per an official statement. JSW Paints also added that it is confident of turning profitable in FY24. It had closed FY22 with a ₹1.000 crore revenue. 

### Blue Star net shines

New Delhi: Air condition and commercial refrigeration system maker Blue Star Ltd Tuesday reported a 72 per cent increase in consolidated net profit at ₹100.46 crore in the third quarter ended December 2023, helped by robust sales in the festive season. The company had posted a net profit of ₹58.41 crore in the October-December quarter of the previous fiscal, according to a regulatory filing from Blue Star Ltd. Its revenue from operations was up 25 per cent to ₹2,241.19 crore during the quarter under review.

### Adani Total Gas up

Bangalore: Adani Total Gas reported a nearly 18% rise in its third-quarter profit on Tuesday, boosted by strong sales of its compressed natural gas (CNG). The company, which distributes piped gas to various Indian cities, said consolidated profit rose to ₹1.77 billion for the quarter ended Dec 31 from ₹1.50 billion a year earlier.

### Bajaj Finserv net rises

New Delhi: Bajaj Finserv Tuesday reported a 22 per cent increase in consolidated net profit to ₹2,158 crore for the December quarter.

2021 Notorious Markets List released in 2022 identified 42 online and 35 physical markets around the world.

ment in this budget. Focus would rather shift to US Fed policy but indications are that it may maintain the status quo on interest

Consumer durables declined 2.40 per cent, capital goods dipped 1.24 per cent, power (1.12 per cent), FMCG (1 per cent), utili1,240.90 points or 1.76 per cent to settle at 71,941.57 Monday. The Nifty climbed 385 points or 1.80 per cent to 21.737.60

expects economic growth will outpace the global economy in the next fiscal year.

the world's second-biggest crude

steel producer, jumped 14.8% to

a six-year high of 100 million

metric tons during the period, re-

flecting buoyant demand for the

alloy in one of the world's fastest

#### L&T to set up solar power plant in Dubai Suzion bags 642MW wind project

New Delhi: Renewables solutions provider Suzlon Group Tuesday said it has bagged a 642-MW wind power project from an Evren company, ABC Cleantech Private Limited (ACPL). Evren is a joint venture in India between Brookfield and Axis Energy, As part of the order, Suzion will install 214 wind turbine generators (WTGs) with a Hybrid Lattice Tubular (HLT) tower

Suzlon Group said in the statement.

ny statement said. "Suzlon is committed to partnering with Evren

to enhance their green energy portfolios while helping advance

India's renewable energy goals," Girish Tanti, Vice Chairman

and a rated capacity of 3 MW each in Andhra Pradesh, a compa-

The combination of steady

growth and falling inflation has

raised hopes for a so-called soft

landing for the global economy

– a slowdown sufficient to con-

tain inflation without causing a

toward a soft landing," Pierre-

Olivier Gourinchas, the IMF's

chief economist, told reporters

growth this year and next (3.2%)

trails the 3.8% average from 2000

The forecast for overall global

ahead of the report's release.

"We are now in the final descent

recession.

New Delhi: Larsen and Toubro (L&T) Tuesday said it has bagged a project to set up a solar power plant in Dubai. The order has been bagged by the renewable engineering, procurement, and construction (EPC) arm of L&T's power transmission and distribution business. The project involves setting up a "solar photovoltaic plant in Dubai, the United Arab Emirates," the company said in a filing to BSE. "We are committed to bringing in our innovative renewable energy solutions and

project management expertise to speed up energy transition in the region which is pursuing economic development combined with sustainable practices," T Madhava Das, Whole-Time Director and Senior Executive Vice President (Utilities), L&T said. L&T is a \$23 billion Indian multinational engaged in EPC projects, hitech manufacturing and services.



### IMF SKETCHES A BRIGHTER VIEW OF GLOBAL ECONOMY **INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND EXPECTS THE GLOBAL ECONOMY TO GROW 3.1% THIS YEAR**

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Washington, Jan 30: The International Monetary Fund has upgraded its outlook for the world economy this year, envisioning resilient growth led by the United States and a slower

pace of inflation. In its latest outlook, the 190country lending agency said Tuesday that it now expects the global economy to grow 3.1% this year. unchanged from 2023 but better than the 2.9% it had predicted for 2024 in its previous

to 2019. That is partly because the estimate in October. Fed and other central banks ag-Worldwide, the IMF thinks ingressively raised interest rates flation will ease from 6.8% in to fight high inflation, and the re-2023 to 5.8 % in 2024 and 4.4 % in sulting higher borrowing costs 2025. In the most advanced have slowed spending and ineconomies, the agency expects investment. flation to drop this year to 2.6%

Gourinchas said he expects "relatively limited" economic damage from the attacks by Yemen-based Houthi rebels on shipping in the Red Sea. The at-



tacks have forced container ships carrying cargo between Asia and Europe to avoid the Suez Canal and instead take the long way around the tip of Africa, thereby delaying and disrupting shipments and raising freight charges. But Gourinchas said that for now, the Red Sea disruptions don't seem to be "a major source of reigniting supply side inflation," which arose from far more severe shipping backlogs in 2021 and 2022.

For the United States, the world's largest economy, the IMF sharply marked up its estimate for growth this year – to 2.1%

from the 1.5% it had penciled in three months ago. The US economy expanded 2.5% in 2023 after an unexpected burst of year-end growth fuelled by consumers willing to spend despite higher borrowing costs.

The outlook for the slumping Chinese economy was also upgraded by the IMF. It now expects the world's second-biggest economy to grow 4.6% this year, up from the 4.2% it had forecast in October but down from 5.2% growth in 2023. Government spending has helped offset the damage from a collapse in the Chinese housing market.

"There was a lot of resilience in many, many parts of the world," Gourinchas said, singling out Brazil, India, Southeast Asia and Russia, which has remained surprisingly sturdy in the face of Western sanctions imposed after its invasion of Ukraine.

#### India at sweet spot

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has raised its 2024-25 GDP growth forecast for India by 20 basis points to 6.5 percent, although it continues to trail expectations of Indian authorities.

At 6.5 percent, the multilateral agency's revised growth forecast for next year is 20 basis points lower than its estimate of 6.7 percent for 2023-24. One basis point is a hundredth of a percentage point.

Similarly, the Fund has also raised its growth forecast for 2025-26 by 20 basis points to 6.5 percent.

"Growth in India is projected 🗦 to remain strong at 6.5 percent in both 2024 and 2025, with an upgrade from October of 0.2 percentage point for both years, reflecting resilience in domestic demand," the IMF said on– January 30 in an update to its World Economic Outlook report.

set as a target.



and next year to the 2% level

that the Federal Reserve and

some other central banks have







### **OrissaPOST** WEDNESDAY | JANUARY 31 | 2024 | BHUBANESWAR

# Musheer, Saumy lift India Selection headache for India

quired. Busy at the crease con-

stantly, the 18-year-old Musheer

motored on from one end un-

leashing strokes in all direc-

tions, while he began with an

His innings was spruced with

upper-cut for a four.

#### PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bloemfontein, Jan 30: Musheer Khan's superlative showing in the ongoing ICC U-19 World Cup continued as his second hundred trampled New Zealand by 214 runs in a Super Six encounter here Tuesday.

After India's top performer Musheer's 131 backed by opener Adarsh Singh's 52 powered India to a huge total of 295/8, left-arm spinner Saumy Kumar Pandey (4/19) and pacer Raj Limbani (2/17) ripped apart New Zealand's top order to bowl them out for a mere 81 in 28.1 over.

Limbani struck on the first and the fifth ball of New Zealand innings to ensure momentum remained India's way throughout had parsimonious opening spell of 5-0-12-2. India vice-captain Pandey finished with splendid figures of 10-2-19-4 as he knocked the stuffing out of Black Caps' chase.

Left reeling at 27/4 in the Powerplay, New Zealand could never really stage a comeback as Indian colts like every edition are looking favourites to win the tournament. For New Zealand. it was their third heaviest defeat in terms of runs and also their third lowest total at the U-19 World Cup stage.

Earlier, Musheer flayed New Zealand attack with his second century of the ICC U-19 World Cup while opener Adarsh Singh struck 52 as India posted a stiff 296-run target.

On a perfect batting wicket



### Deepti moves up

Dubai: India's Deepti Sharma rose one place to joint second while team-mate Renuka Singh also moved up a spot to 10th in the latest ICC women's T20I bowling rankings issued Tuesday. Deepti's rise was largely due to South Africa spinner Nonkululeko Mlaba dropping three places from earlier second to fifth after one wicket from two games against Australia. Similarly, Pakistan's Sadia Iqbal took the joint second spot with Deepti after moving up one place. **England spinner Sophie Ecclestone** maintained a healthy lead at the top of the T20I rankings for bowlers. There was no change within the top 10 of the latest T20I rankings for all-rounders with Deepti retaining the fourth spot. Among batters, Smriti Mandhana remained at fourth to be the highest ranked Indian

### Messi & Co go down Lionel Messi and Int



here at the Mangaung Oval, Musheer tore apart the Kiwis bowling line-up to become the first batter in the current competition to breach the 300-run mark, going past Pakistan's Shahzaib Khan with his stupendous effort.

fine running between the wick-En route his 131, Musheer ets and ended in the death overs blasted 13 fours and three sixes when he was looking to accelerate. Musheer and Adarsh caroff just 125 balls and once showed admirable temperament to up ried out a fine recovery job with a 77-run stand for the second the ante just when it was rewicket after an early blow for India.

Adarsh took charge of attacking the bowlers as he looked good while driving on the rise and also played the pull-shot with elan. It was only unfortunate that he failed to keep a drive in check when Zac Cumming (1/37)teased him with one outside off.

A thick edge off Adarsh's bat flew to Oliver Tewatiya at point in the 18th over, which ended the charge for the left-handed Indian opener who made 52 off 58 balls with six fours.

There also was some disappointment in store for India captain Uday Saharan who failed to convert his start and was dismissed for 35 (57 balls, 2 fours). He had two fifties on trot at the start of the tournament.

Saharan, nevertheless, did a fine job of consolidating the innings for his side, putting on 87 with Musheer which also happened to be the best stand for India in this game.

However, Musheer's century and Adarsh's contribution at the top notwithstanding, India lost wickets in a flurry towards the end to fall short of breaching the 300-run mark, finishing at 295 for eight.

Brief scores: India U-19 295/8 (Musheer Khan 131, Adarsh Singh 52, Uday Saharan 35; Mason Clarke 4/64) beat New Zealand U-1981 (Oscar Jackson 19; Saumy Pandey 4/19, Musheer Khan 2/10, Raj Limbani 2/17) by 214 runs.

events in the last decade, and

the tennis fraternity is hoping

that the arrival of Indian Davis Cup team for the "historic tie"

will inject fresh enthusiasm and

provide a big boost to the game

The last time an Indian Davis

Cup team travelled to Pakistan

was way back in 1964. The All

India Tennis Association (AITA)

was not keen on sending its team

this year too, but the ITF re-

jected its appeal and said cate-

gorically that there is no rea-

in the country.

New Delhi, Jan 30: Untimely injuries to Ravindra Jadeja and KL Rahul have given a major selection headache to India as they seek to bounce back in the second Test against England. following a rare defeat at home.

Both Jadeja and Rahul were among India's main performers in the first innings of the Hyderabad Test before England turned the tables on the formidable hosts.

Jadeja sustained a hamstring injury while going for a quick single during the Hyderabad Test while Rahul has complained of pain in his right quadriceps. The duo's unavailability adds to the woes of the home side, which was clearly stunned by England's 'Bazball' strategy.

Jadeja, with his exceptional allround abilities, makes himself almost irreplaceable and Rahul too has been among India's standout batters across the ODI and Test format since returning from a surgery in September.

Virat Kohli remains unavailable due to personal reasons and after a shock reverse in the series opener, the management will be missing him even more in Visakhapatnam where the second Test begins Friday.

Rohit Sharma and Rahul Dravid have enough options to choose from with selectors adding three players to the squad -Sarfaraz Khan, Sourabh Kumar and Washington Sundar.

A straightforward selection will be Rajat Patidar, who was also a part of the 15 in Hyderabad. He could take Rahul's place in the



middle-order with Kuldeep Yadav replacing Jadeja as the third spinner alongside R Ashwin and Another option for India is to

do what England did in the opener, play only one pacer for four spin choices. In that case, Mohammed Siraj could make way for Kuldeep and the team can accommodate either Sarfaraz Khan or Washington to solidify the middle-order.

Axar Patel

Sourabh, who also bowls leftarm spin like Jadeja and is a decent batter with a couple of firstclass hundreds to his name, can be a dark horse in that race. The ACA-VDCA Stadium in

Visakhapatnam has staged two Tests till date and the pitch is usually a batting friendly one at least in the first innings.

Batting first at the venue back in 2019, India had racked up 502 in the first innings against South Africa with Mayank Agarwal getting a double hundred and Rohit scoring a brisk 176 in his first innings as a Test opener. Having showed plenty of prom-

ise in his four-Test career, lefthanded batter Washington who

bowls right hand off-spin, also makes a strong case for selection. Since making his debut in the iconic Test win at the Gabba. he featured in three games in the previous home series against England in 2021.

Washington managed an 85 not out and 96 not out in five innings over the course of that series and picked up two wickets in a rubber dominated by frontline spinners Ashwin and Axar.

Former selector Sarandeep Singh, during whose tenure Washington made his debut Down Under, said the all-rounder is a utility player but he would not want to tinker too much with the playing eleven.

However, he reckons it would be better for the team's cause if Rohit drops himself to No.3 and an under-fire Shubman Gill opens the innings alongside Yashasvi Jaiswal.

Gill, who himself had expressed the desire to play at three, has not been able to replicate his white ball form in the traditional format after having taken veteran Cheteshwar Pujara's place in the top order.

### Jolly-Gopichand pair sets up Crasto-Ponnappa date



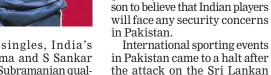
PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Bangkok, Jan 30: Indian pair of Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand had to sweat it out to

In men's singles, India's Sameer Verma and S Sankar Muthusamy Subramanian qualified for the main draw after

emerging winners in their first

### cricket team bus in March 2009



Pak sees positives courtesy India's visit PRESS TRUST OF INDIA Islamabad, Jan 30: Pakistan has paid a huge price in the absence of international sporting

AITA secretary general Anil Dhupar (C) with PTF secretary general Col. Gul Rehman (L) and PTF official Asim Shafiq ahead of India-Pakistan Davis Cup tie in Islamabad

Asian powerhouse Japan in 2021 man. I have always vouched for also had a positive impact. However, nothing matches the excitement and anticipation when India and Pakistan compete in Pakistan.

to Islamabad. The arrival of the sport and being a sports-velopment director and head

coach of Pakistan's National

It has been learnt that there is

Miami kicked off their tour of Saudi Arabia by losing to Al-Hilal 3-4. The Major League Soccer (MLS) team are playing two games in the oil-rich kingdom as part of their pre-season preparations, but even Messi could not inspire it to victory in Riyadh. Messi got on the score sheet with a second-half penalty. A potential showdown with Cristiano Ronaldo's Al-Nassr Thursday is the most anticipated match. Aleksandar Mitrovic put Al-Hilal ahead in the 10th minute and Abdullah Al-Hamdan doubled the lead three minutes later. Luis Suarez pulled one back but Al-Hilal's two-goal advantage was restored in the 44th by Michael. Messi's moment came in the 54th, and a minute later David Ruiz evened the score. Just when Miami looked to have a draw, Malcom came up with the winner in the 88th.

### Extra pay assured

during the Paris Olympics will receive bonuses of up to 1900 euros (USD 2050), French Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin said Tuesday in reaction to protests. Police unions worried about working conditions during the Olympic Games from July 26 to August 11 and the Paralympics that follows organized protests and work stoppages this month for better pay and guarantees of holiday leave and childcare this summer. Darmanin wrote to police staff that employees from the Interior Ministry will receive an exceptional bonus for working during the security operation that is unprecedented in scale for France. Tens of thousands of police officers, thousands of soldiers, and private security staff will be deployed. To compensate their mobilisation, staff who limit their summer leave for the Olympics will receive a bonus of 1,000 euros (USD 1,080). This incentive will rise to 1,600 euros

get the better of Hong Kong's duo of Lok Lok Lui and Wing Yung NG as they entered the second round of the women's doubles event at the Thailand Masters badminton tournament, here Tuesday.

The sixth seeded Indian pair battled it out for one hour and 14 minutes to beat their first round opponents 16-21, 21-10, 21-18. Jolly and Gopichand will play the unseeded compatriots Tanisha Crasto and Ashwini Ponnappa in the next round. Crasto and Ponnappa defeated Chinese Taipei duo of Ling Fang Hu and Xiao Min Lin 21-13, 21-17 in the opening round.

two qualifying matches. Verma first beat USA's Howard

Shu 21-9, 21-16 in the opening round of men's singles qualification round before getting the better of Chinese Taipei's Kuan Lin Kuo 16-21, 21-16, 21-15 in the next to enter the main draw.

Subramanian accounted for the veteran Indonesian Tommy Sugiarto 9-21, 21-17, 21-12 and then beat Korakrit Laotrakul of Thailand 20-22, 21-10, 21-14 to make it to the main draw.

Verma will play eight seed NG Ka Long Angus of Hong Kong in his opening round, while Subramanian will be up against Malaysia's Jun Hao Leong.

in Lahore. Consequently, the country was barred from hosting world-level tournaments across sports.

The Pakistan Tennis Federation (PTF) could not host either junior ITF events nor senior men's Future tournaments. There were no women's events and no Davis Cup team travelled to Pakistan till 2017.

It badly hit Pakistan tennis which was nowhere near cricket in terms of popularity in the country as many promising players were forced to quit the game for lack of growth opportunities and exposure.

Things began to change in 2017 when Iran sent its teams

The reactions of Pakistan's top players, Aisam-ul-haq Qureshi and Aqeel Khan, best summed up the excitement. They are even hoping that this tie could pave the way for the arrival of Indian cricket team to Pakistan.

"We are very excited and happy, finally the Indian Davis Cup team is here. I have always believed that we should keep politics, religion, culture away from sports. That's the beauty of that," Aisam, the only Pakistan Tennis Centre. player competing on ATP Tour, told PTI. an internal battle going on be-

"For me it's the most historical tie, probably. The security measures you will see, I don't think there will be any problems or issues related to that. I would be happy if this Davis Cup tie pushes the Indian cricket team to come to Pakistan and help us see India-Pakistan cricket matches as well," added Aisam.

"The eveballs that we are expecting to generate through this tie will be the best ever in history. We used to run after the sponsors and now we are being chased," claimed Asim Shafiq, national de-

INDIA LOSE TO NETHERLANDS IN

HOCKEY5S WC QUARTERFINALS

tween the contenders, like oil companies and banks, as they seek to outbid each other to get the title sponsorship. Aqeel Khan firmly believes that this tie is different from other matches. "We have com-

peted against the best Asian teams like Japan and Uzbekistan but the Indian team is different. When India is here. media gets involved, fans get more excited and I am sure there is huge interest among sponsors also because more people will follow."

### Mayank hospitalised due to poisonous liquid

Paris: Police officers deployed

(USD 1,730) if they work in an area hosting an Olympic event.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Agartala, Jan 30: Out-of-favour India opener and current Karnataka skipper Mayank Agarwal was rushed to a local hospital after falling ill just before his New Delhi-bound flight was about to take off, an incident that shocked cricket fraternity as the player lodged an official police complaint alleging foul-play.

He is believed to be out of danger after drinking liquid from a pouch, which he thought was water and was kept on his seat as he was on board with IndiGo airlines. In fact, Agarwal lodged a formal complaint with the po-

lice through his manager. "Mayank Agarwal, an international cricket player. Now he is stable and his vitals are normal. But his manager has lodged a specific complaint under NCCPS (New Capital Complex Police Station) to investigate the matter," SP West Tripura Kiran Kumar told PTI here.

Asked about details, the top cop also said: "His manager said



that when he was sitting in the aeroplane, there was a pouch in front of him. He drank a little bit not much but suddenly there was irritation in his mouth and suddenly he couldn't talk also and was brought to ILS hospital. He had swelling and ulcers in the mouth. Otherwise his vitals are stable. State health secretary Kiran

Gitte added: "Police has admitted his complaint and we will investigate as to what happened. As per his manager, he will travel tomorrow to Bengaluru and meanwhile whatever best treatment is available in Agartala, we will provide him. On behalf of ILS Hospital,

manager, Business Development Manoj Kumar Debnath issued

a press release, stating that the cricketer was "experiencing some oral irritation and swelling on his lips. After being assessed by the consultants of the hospital in emergency, he was admitted. For now, he is clinically stable and is being constantly clinically monitored.

Agarwal, who has played 21 Tests for India, led Karnataka to a 29-run win against Tripura Monday. "He (Agarwal) is not in any kind of danger. He is under observation currently in a hospital at Agartala, and we will fly him back to Bengaluru once we get an update from the doctors. which we are expecting tonight,' a Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA) official told PTI on condition of anonymity.

IndiGo issued a statement, which didn't elaborate the reason for a medical emergency. "IndiGo flight 6E 5177 operating from Agartala to Delhi returned to origin due to a medical emergency onboard. The passenger was off-loaded and was rushed to the hospital for further medical assistance. The aircraft

took off again for its destination at 1620h," the airline said in its press release.

Agarwal was supposed to travel with the whole team to Surat via Delhi, when the incident happened. Karnataka are playing Railways in Surat in their next match. "The team was on flight and apparently Agarwal started feeling uneasy and vomited a couple of times sitting on the flight. Since he started feeling sick, he de-boarded.

'From KSCA MR Shahvir Tarapore called and we quickly sent two of our representatives to the ILS hospital. He is under observation and we are told doctors are running some tests. Now there are multiple theories as to what he might have consumed," a Tripura Cricket Association official said on the condition of anonymity.

He will fly back to Bangalore the moment he is in a position to travel. Multiple sources said that Agarwal probably mistook some other transparent liquid as water and drank it, after which he started feeling uneasy

Muscat, Jan 30: Mohammed Raheel's hat-trick went in vain as India suffered a 4-7 defeat to the Netherlands in the quarterfinals of the FIH Hockev5s Men's

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

World Cup here Tuesday. Apart from Raheel (1', 7', 25') Mandeep Mor (11') scored for India. For the Netherlands, Sander de Wijn (4', 15'), and Alexander Schop (10', 26') scored a brace each, while Lucas Middendorp (12'), Jamie van Aart (13'), and Pepijn Reyenga (20') also found the net.

Raheel showcased his skills with a remarkable field goal in the very first minute, setting the tone for an intense competition. However, the Netherlands swiftly responded with de Wijn (4') levelling the score. Undeterred by the quick equaliser, India intensified their offensive strategies, leading to another goal by Raheel

Despite the renewed lead, the Netherlands managed to equalise once again, courtesy of a goal by



Schop. Mandeep then reclaimed the lead for India.

Nevertheless, the Netherlands countered with a rapid succession of goals, as Middendorp and van Aart skilfully found the back of the net, swinging the momentum in favour of the Netherlands.

Heading into halftime, de Wijn delivered a crucial challenge goal, leaving India behind. The second half witnessed the Netherlands asserting their dominance, as Reyenga and Schop extended their lead.

Despite a valiant effort by Raheel, who scored again to complete his hat-trick, India fell short. India will next play against -( Kenya in the 5-8th place match.

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